## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



June 22, 1984

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 84-24

BRU PHASEOUT; MC 177s RETURNED FOR CORRECTIONS

## BRU Phaseout:

This is to inform you that certain functions currently performed by the Benefits Review Unit (BRU) are being automated. The share-of-cost claims clearance functions will be automated and transferred to the fiscal intermediary by July 1985, while the share of cost certification function was transferred to Data Systems Branch/System Support Section (DSB/SSS) effective May 1, 1984. During 1984, the number of staff at BRU is being drastically reduced due to this transfer. In 1985 the remaining function, clearance of SOC claims, will be automated and transferred to the Medi-Cal fiscal intermediary (Computer Science Corporation). During and after this phaseout period, various procedural changes will be taking place and counties will be notified by "all county letters" as the changes occur.

One such change relates to BRU's decreasing ability to respond to telephone inquiries due to staff reductions. We are asking that county personnel exhaust all alternative information sources before attempting to contact BRU. With full statewide implementation of MEDS, all counties now have the capability of obtaining the most current information available via their MEDS terminal. In the future, BRU will have no additional information, such as date of card issuance or cert day, other than that which appears on MEDS.

Therefore, counties should utilize their own records and MEDS inquiries to answer client or provider questions. Problems with MEDS should be referred to your Eligibility Branch MEDS liaison (see ACL 84-16) and Medi-Cal Eligibility questions should be directed to the appropriate contact in the Eligibility Branch Policy Section (see ACL 83-72).

## Returned MC 177s

In an effort to facilitate more timely processing of MC 177s and due to the staffing decrease, the following procedure is being implemented regarding the return of MC 177s for corrections.

Effective immediately, Form MC 2002 will, in most cases, no longer be used to transmit MC 177s to counties for corrections. In cases where the State is attempting to certify a share-of-cost (SOC) case on MEDS and the transaction

fails batch edits, the MC 177 will be returned to the county along with a copy of the MEDS 5.1.1.1 report (see attached example). The report lists the information entered on the transaction, the conflicting data field contents and the error message for each transaction. DSB/SSS will review the error reports to ensure that the reject is not due to key entry error prior to returning the reports to the county. Only rejected transactions will appear on these reports. The records of family members which were accepted for card issuance will be lined out on the MC 177. Report entries requiring no county action will be crossed out. (Please note that the title of the report is currently "State Worker Alert". However, a future programming change may alter the title as well as sequencing of the records. The records are currently listed in alphabetical order.)

The MC 2002 will continue to be used where no MEDS report is available; for example, for transactions rejected by on-line edits or when erroneous entries or omissions are identified prior to key entry.

If either an MC 2002 or a MEDS error report is received with an MC 177, counties should take prompt action to correct the MC 177s and/or MEDS, as appropriate, and return the MC 177 to the State as soon as possible. In addition, if the county is aware that for any reason a SOC case cannot be certified on MEDS, a notation should be made on the MC 177 so that certification will not be attempted on MEDS. For example, MEDS does not allow a change from a non-share-of-cost aid code to a share-of-cost aid code in the same month. Therefore, the following or similar notation should be made on the MC 177: "Do not attempt to certify this case through MEDS." In this example, the county has the choice of hand typing the card or requesting issuance through CID. This should also be noted on the MC 177.

We feel these procedures, with your assistance, will facilitate processing of MC 177s as we continue to phase down BRU staff. If you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Russ Hart of my staff at (916) 322-3463.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Odette Nicoll for Caroline Cabias, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility BranchS

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

REPORT DATE

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REJECT

....COUNTY.....

MEDS ID COUNTY TO 10-37-04 887-0-01 568-60-61 MESSAGE..... STATUS.. SOC CERT INVALID FOR RECIPIENT WITH NO SOC ON FILE REJECT COUNTY ID MEDS ID 10-17-04 548-28-4-1 MESSAGE..... STATUS.. 4208 RECIPIENT NOT ELIGIBLE ON MEDS

FOR CERTIFICATION MONTH

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Attachment

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