

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
ACRAMENTO, CA 95814

June 28, 1984



To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 84- 27

REPORTING OF ELIGIBLES FOR MEDICARE BUY-IN

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the Buy-In process including county reporting of recipient data via the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS).

Buy-In refers to the arrangement through which the State may pay the Medicare outpatient health insurance premiums for certain groups of Medi-Cal eligibles.

Counties have the responsibility to identify Medi-Cal beneficiaries potentially eligible for Buy-In and to provide the State with the information that is needed for Buy-In processing.

For Buy-In actions to be accomplished successfully, counties must provide accurate and complete information to the State. The information critical for the Buy-In process is the recipient name, Health Insurance Claim (HIC) number, Railroad Retirement (RR) number or Social Security number (SSN), sex, date of birth, Medi-Cal case number, and Medi-Cal eligibility effective date.

The required Buy-In data is routinely transmitted by counties to the State as part of Medi-Cal eligibility reporting to MEDS.

For Medi-Cal beneficiaries determined eligible for Medi-Cal by the county welfare departments, the State must evaluate each individual case for potential Buy-In coverage, request additional information as needed, create the actual accretion/deletion transaction, and interact with Social Security Administration (SSA) to resolve problem transactions.

The Buy-In Unit has been experiencing problems due to the incorrect reporting of recipient names to MEDS. In particular, the Buy-In Unit staff has noted that a substantial number of rejected records are due to the incorrect reporting of names on the MEDS record. In order for the Buy-In Unit's actions to be successfully accomplished, it is vital that the information contained on the MEDS record match the record on SSA's file. When the Buy-In accretion is submitted to SSA, the Health Insurance Claim (HIC) number may match; however, if the name differs, the accretion record is rejected. Following are some examples of incorrect name reporting:

<u>Correct Name</u>		<u>MEDS Reporting</u>	
<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>
Jim	Snyder Jr.	Snyder	Jr.
Jane	McDonough	Jane	Mc
Ellen	Podd	Ellen	Podd Ellen
Mary	Sullivan	Sullivan	Mary

When the name is incorrectly reported to SSA, a rejected transaction code, as a means of communication between SSA and the State, is received. The rejection code informs the State that the HIC number matches SSA's Health Insurance Master Record; however, the personal characteristics differ.

The State receives approximately 75 to 100 rejects each month. The process for resolution is time-consuming for both the state and federal staff.

In order to permit successful Buy-In transactions, it is essential that counties submit correct eligibility information, the most important items being the HIC number, name, and DOB. Timeliness in reporting this information is important, as late or erroneous reporting results in an increase in staff time and a possible loss of benefits.

If your staff has any questions regarding the Buy-In process or Buy-In reporting to MEDS, please contact Jo Lie-Nielsen of the Buy-In Unit at (916) 739-3200 or write to Department of Health Services, Buy-In Unit, 6620 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95819.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Caroline Cabis, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants