## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



August 4, 1986

Letter No.: 86-40

TO: All County Welfare Directors

All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARY OTHER HEALTH COVERAGE THIRD PARTY

LIABILITY PROGRAM CHANGES

In a prior All County Letter (86-35) dated June 24, 1986 you were informed that Federal regulation, 42 CFR 433.139, requires that State Medicaid agencies (as of May 12, 1986) use the cost avoidance method of handling provider claims when potential third party liability exists. This method mandates that the state Medicaid agency establish the amount of the third party liability and pays only to the extent that payment allowed under the agency's payment schedule exceeds the third party's liability. Department of Health Services (DHS) is currently modifying the Medi-Cal claims payment system to bring California into compli-Because of the size and complexity of the Medi-Cal program and California's health insurance industry, the DHS has been granted an extension to phase in the modifications to the claims payment system. The implementation of cost avoidance of third party resources will be done in three phases with phase I to be implemented in November 1986.

Phase I of the cost avoidance system consists of expanding the existing system which now cost avoids Kaiser, CHAMPUS and Ross Loos to also cost avoid any Medi-Cal beneficiary enrolled in additional specific private prepaid health plans or health maintenance organizations (PHPs/HMOs). The current system does not require the completion of a health insurance questionnaire for private prepaid health plans and health maintenance organizations. Because the system uses the same other health coverage (OHC) code ("A") as it does for other types of health insurance, it is necessary to contact beneficiaries in order to verify whether or not the indicated insurance is for a PHP/HMO. August, the DHS will begin mailing an abbreviated health insurance questionnaire (see attached) to selected beneficiaries. Beneficiaries must complete and mail the questionnaire by August 25, 1986. Beneficiaries who do not respond will automatically have a cost avoided PHP/HMO other health coverage indicator printed on their November 1986 Medi-Cal identification card. If a beneficiary informs his/her eligibility worker that he/she does not have OHC or that the OHC code on the Medi-Cal card is wrong, existing procedures should be used to correct the code and/or generate a corrected Medi-Cal card.

All County Welfare Directors All County Administrative Officers Page 2

Upon completion of beneficiary responses/non-responses to the questionnaire counties will receive data on which beneficiaries require a "P" or K, C, and R other health coverage indicator put on MEDS. The data will include the following elements: county district office, eligibility worker, beneficiary Medi-Cal ID number, social security number and other health coverage indicator. Counties may receive the data via tape or paper (record layouts attached). Please contact Shirlee Cisneros of Data Systems Branch by telephone at (916) 322-4272 or via SYSM (use ID #HDSCISN) by September 1, 1986 regarding your preference for tape or paper output. Counties who do not respond by that date will receive their data via paper output.

In October 1986 your county will receive a list of the additional PHP/HMOs to be included in the cost avoidance program for use by your eligibility workers during the initial intake and redetermination process. Beneficiaries enrolled in any of the PHPs/HMOs on this list will not be required to complete a HRB2A (Health Insurance Questionnaire); however, counties will be required to put a 'P' other health coverage indicator on MEDS. The PHP/HMO list will be updated regularly by the state's Health Insurance Unit and distributed to counties semi-annually.

Phase II and III will be an expansion of the first phase of the cost avoidance system. Phase II will specifically cost avoid major health insurance companies/health plans known to provide coverage to the largest numbers of Medi-Cal beneficiaries and which offer a scope of benefits/coverage similar to Medi-Cal. This phase is expected to be implemented in 1987. Phase III's goal will further expand upon the cost avoidance activities of the previous Phases through the inclusion of additional insurance companies/plans and coverages as they are determined to be cost beneficial to cost avoid. This last Phase will be implemented sometime during the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Gino Maiolini at (916) 739-3247.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Attachments (cc's and Expiration Date listed on next page)

All County Welfare Directors All County Administrative Officers Page 3

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants
County MEDS Liaisons
County EDP Coordinators

Expiration Date: April 30, 1987

RTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TRY SECTION FFICE BOX 1287 AMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95806

August 7, 1986

SUBJECT: REPORTING AND USING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

AVISO MUY IMPORTANTE. DESEA UD LEER ESTE AVISO EN ESPANOL, LO ESTA EN OTRA LADO.

On November 1, 1986 Medi-Cal will expand its program for using private health insurance. This program does not change your Medi-Cal eligibility but it does mean that if you are enrolled in a health plan, Medi-Cal will not pay for medical services covered by the plan. You will still be able to use your Medi-Cal card for Medi-Cal covered services the health plan does not provide. A health plan is a group of doctors, a hospital, a medical clinic, or an organization which is made up of private doctors and hospitals.

Medi-Cal records show that you do have health insurance. We want to make sure that our records are correct. Please complete the enclosed form and return it in the envelope provided by August 25, 1986. If you do not complete the form and return it, a code will be put on your Medi-Cal card which will mean that you will have to use your health plan for medical services covered by your plan. California law says that all Medi-Cal recipients must report and must use any health insurance they have in order to keep their Medi-Cal eligibility (Welfare and Institutions Code 14023, California Adminstrative Codes 50175 and 50763).

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED FORM AND RETURN IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY AUGUST 25, 1986. (NO STAMP IS NECESSARY.)

### HOW TO COMPLETE THE HEALTH INSURANCE FORM

- STATEMENT NO 1. Check this box and give the date it stopped if you no longer have private health insurance.
- STATEMENT NO 2. Check the box next to the health insurance plan you are enrolled in.
- STATEMENT NO 3. Check this box if you have health insurance but it is not with one of the health care plans in Number 2. Give the full name and address of your health insurance company and your policy and/or group number.

IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE AND RETURN THE HEALTH INSURANCE FORM BY AUGUST 25, 1986, A NEW OTHER COVERAGE CODE WILL BE PUT ON YOUR MEDI-CAL CARD.

# HEALTH INSURANCE FORM FORMULARIO DEL SEGURO DE SALUD

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#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### OTHER HEALTH COVERAGE INDICATOR CHANGE REPORT

PROGRAM: RCVOOD

PAGE NUMBER: Z,ZZ9 REPORT NBR: MR-RCV000-R002 RUN DATE: MM/DD/YY

#### MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES WITH PRIVATE PHP SAN DIEGO COUNTY

DISTRICT OFFICE : XXX

EW NO : XXXX

SSAN (MEDS-ID)	COUNTY-1D	BENEFICIARY NAME	BIRTHDATE	OHC CODE
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COUNTY TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY OHC CODE CHANGES ..... ZZZ, ZZ9