

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



April 29, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter: 88 - 28

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF RESTRICTED-SERVICES MEDI-CAL CARDS TO
CERTAIN ALIENS FOR TREATMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
CONDITIONS OR FOR PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES

The Legislature is currently considering the latest amended version of SB 175 (Maddy) which would conform state law to most of the requirements of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA, P.L. 99-603) and Section 9406 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (OBRA, P.L. 99-509). This legislation would permit otherwise eligible aliens, who lack a satisfactory immigration status, to receive Medi-Cal for emergency and pregnancy - related services. These "OBRA aliens", to be identified by aid code 58, will include:

- o Aliens who do not present Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) - issued alien registration documents (undocumented aliens).
- o Aliens who present INS documents which the county department has reason to suspect may not be genuine or which do not appear to constitute evidence that they have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (are lawful permanent residents) or are "permanently residing in the United States under color of law" (PRUCOL).
- o Aliens who have been legally admitted to the U.S. for a limited period of time and have unexpired nonimmigrant visas or unexpired parole status.
- o Aliens who have properly filed an application for amnesty or Special Agricultural Worker (SAW) status in accordance with IRCA but who have not yet been legalized. These individuals will have red "Employment Authorization" Cards (INS Form I-688A) valid for six months.
- o Aliens who have had their amnesty or SAW status adjustment applications denied and are either undocumented or have invalid I-688A cards.

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
Page 2

The operative date of the legislation is anticipated to be the first day of the month following the month in which it is enacted.

After the operative date, but before necessary MEDS changes have been made, alien applicants for restricted benefit cards will fall into one of two categories:

1. Those who will need their restricted services cards to receive emergency and pregnancy-related services right away. (Included in this category will be aliens in the process of obtaining INS documentation but whose reasonable opportunity to obtain documents has expired).
2. Those asking for the cards in anticipation of needing medical care in the future.

Counties should be prepared to issue applicants immediate-need, hand-typed Medi-Cal cards (sample attached) until the necessary MEDS changes have been made to generate cards for IRCA/OBRA individuals. It is anticipated that there will be a delay of from three to four weeks after the operative date of the law before MEDS will be able to generate cards for this group of beneficiaries. Once the MEDS changes have been made, counties should resume normal procedures for issuing immediate-need cards through MEDS.

Regular Medi-Cal cards (Form MC 300 printed on green card stock) will continue to be used for full - service cards issued to individuals who have a satisfactory immigration status for Medi-Cal purposes, namely:

- o United States citizens and individuals treated the same as citizens for Medi-Cal purposes. (See the forthcoming revision of Medi-Cal Procedures Section 7D).
- o Lawful permanent residents with valid Alien Registration Receipt Cards (INS Form I-551 or earlier Forms I-151 or AR-3a).
- o Lawful temporary residents who are aged, blind, disabled or children under 18 whose immigration status has been adjusted in accordance with IRCA. These individuals have green Temporary Resident Cards (INS Form I-688).

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
Page 3

- o Individuals considered to be PRUCOL in accordance with Section 1(f) of Senate Bill 175 (Maddy) and as defined in procedures to follow.

We expect that the new law will require other program changes, such as the restriction of services to IRCA aliens who are not aged, blind, disabled, or under 18 years of age, elimination of the CA6 procedure, etc. Instructions about these issues will follow later should the bill be passed.

If you have questions about issuance of restricted services cards to individuals who lack a satisfactory immigration status for Medi-Cal purposes, please call Tom Dickson at (916) 324-4961, Sandra Bierer at (916) 324-4971 or Sharyl Shanen at (916) 323-4124.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: December 30, 1988

CONTROL
NUMBER
8120916**MEDI-CAL
IDENTIFICATION CARD**

THE PERSON NAMED ON THIS CARD IS
ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS UNDER
MEDI-CAL, PROVIDED THAT BENEFITS
UNDER OTHER COVERAGE, INCLUDING
MEDICARE, ARE USED FIRST.

SSA# 561-81-6833

05-16-54 F

VALID FOR EMERGENCY OR

*PREGNANCY RELATED SERVICES

40-58- 0000001-0-12

FIRSTNAME I LASTNAME

FIRST ADDRESS LINE

SECOND ADDRESS LINE

CITY, STATE 95814

- SAFEGUARD THIS CARD -

LOSS WILL RESULT IN DELAYS
WHEN YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION

LASTNAME, FIRST
40-58- 0000001012
05/88 *54 F

N

PROVIDER
OF SERVICE

REMOVE APPROPRIATE LABEL
AND ATTACH TO YOUR CLAIM

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE BACK OF THIS
CARD.

VALID: MAY 1988

LIABILITY:

OTHER COVERAGE: N

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLE

PRESENT THIS
CARD TO YOUR DOCTOR OR OTHER PERSON GIV-
ING MEDICAL SERVICE EACH TIME YOU SEE HIM.
HE WILL COPY CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM
IT, REMOVE A LABEL, AND RETURN IT TO YOU.
UNLESS HE OBTAINS A LABEL FOR EACH SERVICE
HE CANNOT BILL MEDI-CAL. PLEASE HELP HIM
BY HAVING YOUR CARD AVAILABLE.

←
TEAR
THIS

SIDE
OFF

AND

←
THROW
AWAY
CARBON
←