

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

P.O. BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320



November 21, 1991

Letter No.: 91-109

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

SUBJECT: ACCESS FOR INFANTS AND MOTHERS PROGRAM (AIM)

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a new health insurance program established in California for pregnant women and infants called the Access for Infants and Mothers Program (AIM). This program, which is administered by The California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, is expected to begin offering coverage in January 1992. The objective of the AIM Program is to increase access to perinatal care and health care by providing affordable coverage to the uninsured population of low-income pregnant women and infants who do not qualify for Medi-Cal because of excess assets, or who have income which would require them to pay a share of cost.

In order to be eligible for the AIM Program, subscribers must: 1) be a California resident for at least six continuous months prior to application; 2) have family income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level at time of application (no asset test); 3) not be a Medi-Cal/Medicare beneficiary at the time of application; and 4) not be covered by comparable private insurance benefits.

Enclosed for your information is a fact sheet distributed by the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program which highlights the eligibility criteria, benefits, costs, etc. of the AIM Program. Counties can obtain more information regarding the AIM program by contacting the AIM program directly at the address and telephone number listed on the enclosed fact sheet.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lisa Reagan of my staff at (916) 657-3719.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure



The California Major Risk Medical Insurance Program

744 P Street, Room 1077
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 324-4695

Board Members
Clifford Allenby, Chairman
Soan Dowell
Rita Gordon
Ron Kaldor
Ralph Schaffarzick, M.D.

SUMMARY OF PERINATAL INSURANCE INITIATIVE ACCESS FOR INFANTS AND MOTHERS PROGRAM (AIM)

Highlights:

- * *Increased access to maternity, delivery, and infant care services for low income women.*
- * *Better birth outcomes due to increased access to care.*
- * *Reliance on the existing financing and health care delivery systems.*
- * *Affordable premiums for subscribers.*
- * *Streamlined, easy to use application and eligibility process.*

Eligibility Criteria:

1. California resident for atleast six continuous months prior to application.
2. Family income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level at time of application with no asset test.
3. Not a Medi-Cal or Medicare beneficiary at the time of application.
4. Not covered by comparable private insurance benefits.

Benefit Package:

Subscribers will be covered for all medically necessary medical services during pregnancy, 60 days postpartum, and for 2 years of infant care following the birth of the child.

What will it Cost?

The subscriber contribution will be capped at 2% of gross family income. For a family of two with an annual gross family income of 250% of the federal poverty level (\$21,280), the subscriber contribution would be \$425.60. The initial subscriber contribution will be no more than \$50, however subscribers must agree to the payment of the complete subscriber contribution.

How will care be Provided?

Subscribers will choose from a variety of health provider networks which will contract with the state to provide covered benefits.

Will the number of subscribers be limited?

The number of subscribers will be limited based on the funds appropriated for this purpose. AB 99 of 1991 appropriates \$44m in FY 1991-92, and \$57m in FY 1992-93 and FY 1993-94 in state Cigarette & Tobacco tax revenues for implementation of the program.

When will coverage begin?

The program expects to begin offering coverage in January of 1992.

For more information about the program contact:

Major Risk Medical Insurance Program
744 P Street, Rm 1077
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-4695