

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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August 6, 1991

Letter No: 91-68

To: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: OTHER HEALTH COVERAGE - REPLACEMENT MEDI-CAL CARDS

REFERENCE: ACWDL 91-38, 90-49

This letter should serve as a reminder to counties who may not have been aware that it is the responsibility of the county to make corrections to Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) recipient OHC codes and to issue current and past month replacement cards if requested by the recipient (see ACWDLs 91-38 and 90-49).

The Department of Health Services has received numerous complaints from SSI/SSP recipients who have been advised by county staff that they must return to the social security office to initiate a change to their OHC code and to request replacement Medi-Cal cards. Other SSI/SSP recipients have been told that state staff will make the corrections and issue replacement cards. As you may already know, the Social Security office is responsible for collecting OHC information ONLY when making an initial SSI/SSP determination or redetermination and the state does NOT have the ability to issue replacement cards for SSI/SSP recipients except in very limited circumstances.

California Code of Regulations Sections 50743, 50745 and 50746 define the circumstances under which counties are required to issue current and past month Medi-Cal cards. These regulations specifically instruct counties to issue current or past month cards to eligible recipients, including SSI/SSP recipients, who need replacement of cards with erroneous data. Under these regulations, counties are required to issue replacement Medi-Cal cards when the recipient indicates that the OHC code on the card is erroneous or that the insurance coverage has terminated or never existed.

Counties should ensure that staff are made aware of the proper procedures. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Cathy Gorgiat at (916) 739-3276.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch