

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320



November 4, 1991

TO: All County Welfare Directors  
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons  
All MEDS Coordinators  
All County Title IV-D Administrators  
All Fiscal Officers

Letter No.: 91-97

SUBJECT: AID CODE REDESIGN

REFERENCE: ACWDL 89-83, 90-57 and 90-99

The purpose of this letter is to let the counties know the Aid Code Redesign has been implemented and the first alphanumeric aid codes are scheduled for implementation on November 1, 1991, for the 100 Percent program.

BACKGROUND

The aid codes are used to identify different types of welfare benefits and to better distinguish, control and report certain kinds of information. Because a shortage of unassigned aid codes existed, the decision was made to expand the pool of aid codes.

The aid code system currently consists of a two-digit identification of public assistance programs. It was designated as a two digit numeric code starting with 01 and ending with 99 (both '00' and 90-99 are used by the county welfare departments).

In many cases, the first digit of the aid code field was structured to represent a certain subset of the welfare population. The general guideline is a person whose aid code starts with the digit '1' is categorized as aged, a person whose aid code starts with the digit '2' is categorized as blind, a person whose aid code starts with the digit '3' receives (or is linked to) the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, and so forth.

Once the remaining four unassigned aid codes are implemented they'll be categorized as indicated below:

Aid Code 15 and 19 will be assigned to the next category of Aged eligibles.

Aid Code 25 and 29 will be assigned to the next category of Blind eligibles.

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The numeric aid codes no longer used to indicate certain eligibles on MEDS which have an elapsed time period of 15 months will be reassigned following the general guidelines. Aid codes 06, 07, and 43 will be reserved for programs under the Department of Social Services and aid codes 77 and 78 will be reassigned to the next category of persons who are receiving benefits as part of the special programs.

The alphanumeric aid codes will be categorized using the same general guidelines.

#### RESTRUCTURED AID CODES

Because the second field is not as structured as the first field, the decision was made to change the second field to accept alpha characters (for example "1C" or "3A". This expansion will enable the State and counties to identify additional categories of eligibles.

The following provides the list of letters from the alphabet which will not be used in the new alphanumeric aid codes. The letters "B" and "E" will not be used because, depending on the print, they could resemble an "8". The letters "I" and "L" will not be used because they could resemble a numeric 1; the letter "O" because it resembles a 0 (zero); and the letters "Q" and "Z" are not present on the telephone so Medi-Cal providers would not be able to access the Automated Eligibility Verification System.

Note: The existing aid codes will not be renumbered.

Counties who have not completed their data processing modification to accept alphanumeric aid codes will be required to submit data online. Counties will be able to submit data through batch once their required system modifications are completed.

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If you have any questions regarding the MEDS Network system changes, please contact your State MEDS Liaison.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch  
Department of Health Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert Garcia, Deputy Director  
Administration Division  
Department of Social Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert Horel, Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division  
Department of Social Services