

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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August 11, 1992

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

Letter No.: 92-52

SUBJECT: LONG-TERM CARE RESTRICTION REPORTING

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with instructions regarding the reporting of long-term care (LTC) restrictions to MEDS. Information in this letter is applicable to both program and system staff.

As stated in earlier transmittals, the system changes necessary to issue restricted cards resulting from a disqualifying transfer of property will be operational August 1, 1992. AS A REMINDER, for applications received prior to August 1, 1992, the long-term care (LTC) restriction may be imposed no earlier than September, 1992, and a notice of action must be given no earlier than August, 1992, in accordance with the 10-day requirements specified in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 50179. For applications received after July 30, 1992, the LTC restriction may not be applied to any retroactive eligible months prior to August, 1992. Counties must not calculate overpayments for months prior to the county implementation date, that result from a disqualifying transfer of property occurring on or after January 1, 1990.

Due to the delay in providing the basic language for notices of action to be used when issuing restricted cards resulting from disqualifying transfers of property, counties must implement the new system to issue restricted cards no later than October 1, 1992. If counties have developed adequate notice of action language prior to October 1, 1992, they are encouraged to implement either August 1, 1992, or September 1, 1992. Basic notice of action language has been developed by the Department and is being issued in a separate All County Welfare Directors Letter.

Also, counties must flag and retain cases with the LTC restriction so that the LTC restriction can be removed once the LTC restriction period has ended. This includes closed cases, in the event that an individual reapplies, or applies for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (in accordance with federal law the period must continue to its end even though an individual might return home, and/or apply for, and receive SSI). Once again, it is expected that the number of cases receiving LTC restricted cards will be very small.

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SYSTEMS OPERATION

MEDS changes for reporting the LTC restriction are being phased in over a period of several change cycles, since the changes are fairly comprehensive and some of the modules (e.g. EW30) are affected by other changes currently under way. Effective August 1, 1992, counties will be able to use either an EW15 or an EW20 for reporting of the restricted status. The LTC restriction is reported by entering either 950 or 951 in the sensitive services field. The value 951 is provided for counties who use MEDS' limited access capability to restrict MEDS online inquiry responses on county sensitive cases (i.e., the client would have been coded 001 were he/she not subject to the LTC restriction). Once the restriction has been posted to MEDS, subsequent eligibility updates (e.g., via an EW20 or an EW30) will not automatically remove the restriction. To remove the restriction, a county must specifically enter 000 (zeros) or 001 in the sensitive services field. Watch upcoming change cycle notices for information on when the EW30 and EW05 changes for reporting/removing the LTC restriction will be installed.

Due to the low volume of cases subject to this restriction, it is the Department's expectation that most counties will not have changed their electronic data processing (EDP) systems to handle reporting of the LTC restriction and will instead use the MEDS online system to post the restriction code. Counties that have an EDP system that submits updates to MEDS that has not been modified to report the LTC restriction, will need to take some special actions to establish new eligibles who are subject to the restriction. All counties with EDP systems that submit updates to MEDS will need to take some special actions to post the restriction on existing cases as the notices of action are sent out.

FOR NEW CASES, eligibility will need to be reported online with the LTC restriction before MEDS receives input from the county's EDP system (since the restriction will not be accepted once eligibility has been established on MEDS for a given month). One or more online EW20 or EW15 transactions should be used as needed to report new eligibility for all current and retroactive months.

NOTE: If an EW20 is used to report the LTC restriction, the EW20 generated by the county's EDP system will reject with a message indicating that the recipient is already eligible on MEDS; if EW15(s) are used, the batch EW20 will simply confirm the EW15 eligibility and should not issue any messages.

FOR POSTING THE RESTRICTION ON EXISTING CASES, counties may use an online EW20 with a future effective date and an IPT ESAC (i.e., 2 or 7) to post the restriction for the upcoming month. Alternately, a county may place a hold on the county system prior to MEDS renewal, use an EW15 after MEDS renewal to post the restriction and then release the county system hold to

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reestablish ongoing eligibility on MEDS.

If you have any questions on this issue, please call Sharyl Shanen-Raya at
(916) 657-2942.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch