

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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August 26, 1993

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

Letter No.: 93-65

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN IN IMDs

REF.: Article 6, MEM Manual

The purpose of this letter is to clarify Medi-Cal eligibility for children who stay in substance abuse treatment facilities with their mothers as set forth in Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) Medicaid Regional Memorandum Nos. 93-45 and 93-82.

Originally, HCFA stated that "substance abuse treatment facilities are classified as 'institutions for mental diseases' (IMDs) because addictive diseases are classified as mental disorders and these facilities meet the statutory and regulatory IMD definition as institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in providing care for persons with mental diseases"; and therefore, the beds occupied by children who stay with their mothers must be counted in determining whether the facility is an IMD.

HCFA has amended their earlier policy and now consider that beds occupied by children in these facilities do not have to be counted, if these beds were not established to be treatment beds and are not being used for treatment.

If you have any questions, please contact Elena Lara of my staff at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch