

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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December 30, 1993

To: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialist/Liaisons

Letter No.: 93-87

CHANGE IN LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) STATUS FOR DISABLED NEWBORNS

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that effective no later than March 1, 1994 a disabled or presumptively disabled premature newborn who is born in a facility and remains an inpatient for the remainder of the month is in his/her own Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU) beginning with the month of birth rather than in the following month. This policy coincides with current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) rules which do not determine a disabled newborn to be a member of the mother's household until the month after the month he/she is discharged from the hospital.

Conversely, a newborn who does not meet the presumptive disability criteria, is not deemed disabled (Section 50223), or who is released to the home and is later hospitalized during the same month of birth would be in the parent's MFBU as outlined in Sections 50373 and 50377.

For example, a premature baby boy was born April 15 and weighed 2 pounds therefore meeting presumptive disability criteria based on low birth weight. He remained in the hospital until August 17 when he was discharged to his home. The county would determine his eligibility for the month of birth until the month after his release to the home based only on his own income and resources (April-August). In September he would be in the same MFBU with his parent(s) or caretaker relative and their income and resources would be included in the determination. Prior to this policy change, the newborn would have been in the MFBU with his parents during the month of April since he would not meet the definition of LTC status until May (Section 50056).

Counties may apply this change retroactively if it is brought to your attention. The family may also wish to apply for SSI; however, this is not a retroactive benefit.

Information regarding the presumptively disabled premature newborn will be published in a future provider bulletin. A copy will be sent to the Medi-Cal liaisons. Counties may also review Medi-Cal Manual Letter No. 120, dated November 2, 1993.

If you have any questions regarding MFBU, please contact Ms. Margie Buzdas at (916) 657-0726. For questions regarding disability issues, please contact Ms. RaNae Dunne at (916) 657-0714.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch