

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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February 23, 1994

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

Letter No.: 94-20

EXTEND MEDI-CAL AS OF JANUARY 1994 TO THOSE WHO WERE PICKLE ELIGIBLE IN AUGUST 1993

Ref: EMC2 DHS #94003

As previously instructed, counties should have reviewed the cases of Pickle individuals who were under the Pickle Program in August 1993 and had their Medi-Cal extended from September through December 1993. In most cases, these Pickle individuals were determined ineligible for the Pickle Program in December 1993 (and zero-share-of-cost Medi-Cal) according to the current Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) level (e.g., \$603.40 for a single person).

It now has been determined that beneficiaries who received Medi-Cal under the Pickle program in August 1993 and whose Medi-Cal was extended from September through December 1993 fall within the grandfathering provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code section 14005.21. That section insulates certain persons receiving Medi-Cal from impacts on their Medi-Cal that would normally flow from the 2.7 percent reduction in SSI/SSP levels that was effective on September 1, 1993.

Section 14005.21 applies ONLY to the limited group of beneficiaries who were receiving zero-share-of-cost Medi-Cal in August 1993, and who would have lost zero-share-of-cost Medi-Cal in September 1993 because of the 2.7 percent reduction in SSI/SSP levels.

Therefore, Pickle beneficiaries who fall into the group of persons described above should have their zero-share-of-cost Medi-Cal extended as of January 1, 1994, unless their income rises above SSI/SSP income levels which were in effect on August 31, 1993, i.e., the levels in effect before the 2.7 percent reduction in SSI/SSP (e.g., \$620 for a single person). Counties should flag these cases and change their aid codes to the zero-share-of-cost aid codes of 14, 24 or 64. Counties should also promptly notify these Pickle individuals through the usual notice of action process of the extension of their Medi-Cal benefits as of January 1994 if they were taken off Medi-Cal in December 1993. However, a notice of action is not needed if they were not discontinued.

We regret the inconvenience these instructions cause.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Finberg of my staff at (916) 657-0080.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch