

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941



July 7, 1996

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

Letter No.: 96-35

DISABILITY REEXAMINATIONS FOR THE MEDICALLY NEEDED ONLY-DISABLED

The purpose of this letter is to advise counties of a change in procedures for processing Reexamination Cases when medical reexamination diary (MRD) dates have become due on Medically Needed Only (MNO)-Disabled cases. The State Programs-Disability Evaluation Division (SP-DED) establishes a MRD date on nearly all MNO disability allowances. (Exceptions occasionally occur when SP-DED adopts a disability determination from a federal case and they cannot obtain the MRD.) Periodic medical reexaminations are federally mandated and must be conducted to determine whether disabled individuals have had medical improvement since their last disability evaluation. It is possible that a number of these individuals may no longer meet the federal definition of disability. This can only be determined with a full disability evaluation from SP-DED.

The counties will continue to follow the current reexamination procedures specified in Article 22 of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual (MEPM), Section 22 C-9. The intent of these additional procedures is to improve the current process and ensure that all medical reexaminations are performed timely.

These instructions apply only to MNO-Disabled cases that do not have Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) involvement. MRDs which have become due on active SSDI and/or SSI cases are controlled and conducted by the Social Security Administration.

Monthly Listing

SP-DED will generate monthly listings of all MNO disability cases in which the MRD has become due. These lists will be checked against the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System to purge out inactive cases and those which have an active SSDI and/or SSI case. The remaining names on the lists will be sent to the county's liaison for disability issues to process in accordance with Article 22, Section C-9 of the MEPM.

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
Page 2

County Action

The county will submit a full disability packet on each reexamination case. This consists of an MC 223 (Applicant's Supplemental Statement of Facts for Medi-Cal), a current MC 221 and a copy of the prior MC 221 (Disability Determination and Transmittal), a signed and undated MC 220 for each medical source listed on the MC 223 plus three additional signed and undated MC 220s, and any new medical records or reports, if readily available. The county will take necessary steps to assist the client in completing the necessary forms.

If the client does not respond or refuses to cooperate, the county will first determine whether the individual is eligible for Medi-Cal under a different linkage factor. If not, the county will follow the procedures specified in Section 50175, Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations to discontinue the case. *The county will notify SP-DED of the action taken in these situations by completing the MC 222 (DED Pending Information Update form) and annotate in item number 9: "Client Discontinued for Failure to Cooperate with Disability Reexamination--Delete Name from Follow-Up List."*

Medical Cessations

If SP-DED determines that these individuals are no longer disabled, counties will determine whether the individual is eligible for Medi-Cal under another linkage category. If the beneficiary cannot be found eligible under another category, the county will send a ten-day notice of action to discontinue Medi-Cal benefits because the client is no longer disabled and is not eligible for benefits under any other program.

120-Day Follow Up

If within 120 days from the list date, the county does not forward disability packets on each of the listed individuals (or otherwise notify SP-DED on why a disability packet is not forthcoming), SP-DED will generate a follow-up list of the outstanding cases. This list will be sent to the county's disability liaison and an informational copy will be sent to DHS.

Effective Date of New Procedures

County implementation of these new procedures will begin no later than September 1, 1996. There are an estimated 200 cases statewide that are overdue for medical reexamination. The initial lists will be sent to the counties during the month of August 1996. The 120-day follow-up list will be generated based on the September 1, 1996 county implementation date.

All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
Page 3

Subsequent lists of beneficiaries who are due for a medical reexam will be generated monthly; it is anticipated that this will not result in a significant workload for the counties. Although SP-DED establishes MRDs on over 700 approved disability cases annually, the diary dates may range from six months to seven years depending upon each individual's likelihood of medical improvement.

If there are any questions, please contact Terry Durham of my staff at (916) 657-2701.

This All County Welfare Directors Letter will be followed by MEPM procedures.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

FRANK S. MARTUCCI, CHIEF
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch