

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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June 23, 1997

TO: All County Welfare Directors Letter No.. 97-29
All County Administrative Officers
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEW MINOR CONSENT AID CODES

Ref: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No. 96-12, E-Mail Nos 96009 and 96031, and Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual No. 157

This letter supersedes ACWDL No. 96-12 and E-Mail Nos. 96009 and 96031.

The purpose of this letter is to give counties final implementation instructions for the new minor consent aid codes. Effective September 1, 1997, counties are to begin using Aid Codes 7M, 7P, and 7R for all minor consent applications. An additional aid code for pregnant minors has also been created. Aid Code 7N will be assigned (also effective September 1, 1997) and will only be used for pregnancy related and associated family planning and post-partum services for minors. This aid code will **have a zero share of cost (SOC)**. All pregnant Minor Consent beneficiaries will be placed in this aid code, if the minor's income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, for pregnancy related and family planning services.

Counties are no longer to use Aid Code 44 for pregnant Minor Consent beneficiaries for the income disregard program. Effective October 1, 1996 Federal Financial Participation is claimed for all pregnancy-related minor consent services. Utilization of Aid Code 7N will permit accurate tracking and reporting for FFP claiming purposes.

AID CODES/TYPES OF SERVICES

Eligibility workers (EW's) should select an aid code based on two factors: (1) **type of service requested**, and (2) **age of the child**. Effective with the September 1997 Month of Eligibility only the four aid codes listed below will be acceptable for Minor Consent cases (Note: all of these aid codes may or may not have a SOC except Aid Code 7N, which has a zero SOC.)

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AID CODE

TYPE OF SERVICES COVERED

7M	Restricted to minors who are at least 12 years of age, limited to sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, family planning, and sexual assault services. This aid code is not to be used for any mental health service.
7N	Restricted to pregnant minors, limited to pregnancy and pregnancy related and family planning services. This aid code does not have an age restriction.
7P	Restricted to minors who are at least 12 years of age, limited to sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, family planning, sexual assault services. This aid code is to be used for outpatient mental health treatment and counseling.
7R	Restricted to minors <u>under</u> age 12 and limited to family planning, and sexual assault services. This aid code cannot be used for mental health services, services for drug and alcohol abuse, or sexually transmitted diseases.

RESTRICTION CODING CHANGES

Restriction codes (i.e., 004 for sexually transmitted diseases, 005 for mental health, etc) will no longer be entered on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) when issuing a Minor Consent paper card. When the EW uses Aid Codes 7M, 7N, 7P, or 7R, MEDS will automatically enter into the system, **for State use only**, all restriction codes pertinent to the aid code selected. Restriction codes will be internal to MEDS.

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In the past, Minor Consent beneficiaries could have received a range of services based on the restriction code used. For example, a pregnant female with restriction code 008 could potentially receive those services assigned to codes 004 through 007 as well (sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, sexual assault, and drug/alcohol abuse) **Under the new system, each aid code in itself has a range of services which eliminates the restriction code hierarchy (see page 2).**

RETROACTIVE MINOR CONSENT PROCESSING

If a minor, effective September 1997, requests retroactive eligibility under the Minor Consent program for any month prior to September 1997 the EW is to use the new aid codes for those months. The county is not to use any restriction code with the retro MEDS transaction.

EXAMPLE:

A 17-year-old applies on September 2, 1997, for Minor Consent services related to sexually transmitted diseases. At the same time, the applicant requests Minor Consent coverage for July for the same services. The EW will use aid type 7M effective September and will process the July request also with aid type 7M. MEDS will automatically assign an appropriate restriction code. The EW will obtain a separate MC 4026 form for both the July and September requests and will issue separate notices of action (MC 239V) for both months.

REQUIRED MEDS TRANSACTIONS

No changes to the MEDS EW transactions have been made. The EW15 transaction is used for all Minor Consent approval actions (retro processing, one-month and two-month extension approvals).

All Minor Consent cases are to be given an **Eligibility Status Action Code (ESAC) of 6** (County-Closed Eligibility Period)

POINT OF SERVICE/AUTOMATED ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM (POS/AEVS) MESSAGES

The following POS/AEVS messages will be used for the specific aid type assigned. Each aid type will have two messages. one for SOC and one for zero SOC eligibility

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AID CODE

MESSAGES

7M	Recipient limited to services related to sexually transmitted diseases, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, and family planning with no SOC Recipient limited to services related to sexually transmitted diseases, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, and family planning, with a SOC of _____dollars.
7N	Recipient limited to services related to pregnancy and family planning with no share of cost.
7P	Recipient limited to services related to sexually transmitted diseases, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, family planning and outpatient mental health with no SOC. Recipient limited to services related to sexually transmitted diseases, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, family planning and outpatient mental health , with a SOC of _____dollars.
7R	Recipient limited to services related to, family planning and sexual assault with no SOC. Recipient limited to services related to family planning and sexual assault, with a SOC of _____dollars.

MINORS ELIGIBLE TO THE INCOME DISREGARD PROGRAMS

Pregnant minors are also eligible for the income disregard program if their income is at or below 200 percent of the poverty level. Therefore a specific aid code was needed to implement this service-specific program. Aid Code 7N will allow for appropriate tracking. Any minor who is requesting pregnancy and pregnancy-related services must be assigned Aid Code 7N. This aid code has a zero SOC.

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Anytime a pregnant minor requests any service outside the scope of those provided under aid code 7N, **two Minor Consent aid codes will be necessary**. Aid code 7N covers pregnancy and pregnancy related services **only**

DHS does not anticipate any pregnant minor receiving benefits under the Minor Consent aid codes having countable income that exceeds the 200 percent level. Data Systems Branch has determined, through a MEDS analysis, that of the few Minor Consent individuals that have a SOC, none come close to the income necessary to produce a SOC that would exceed the 200 percent amount. Medi-Cal paid claims and eligibility file information for 1994 indicate that 7,333 females received pregnancy and pregnancy related services under Minor Consent eligibility. Of those 7,333 individuals, 160 were placed in the "44" income disregard aid code.

EXAMPLE:

Pregnant minor applies for Minor Consent services for September 1997. The EW determines that she is eligible but due to her income would have a SOC. Because the minor is requesting pregnancy-related services, the EW grants Minor Consent effective September 1, 1997, for pregnancy and pregnancy related services using Aid Code 7N with zero SOC. The EW also grants the other eligible Minor Consent services using Aid Code 7M with the appropriate share of cost. In this situation, two Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit's would be required, as they were required when Aid Code 44 was used. **Only one MC 4026 is required in this situation but two notices of action are necessary.**

This ACWDL will be followed by a revised Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Letter.

Questions or comments concerning the Minor Consent program and/or these aid types should be directed to Gary Varner or my staff at (916) 654-5321.

Sincerely,

Original signed by,

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch