

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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

November 18, 1997



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

Letter No.: 97-49

IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW AID CODE 6P FOR THE MEDI-CAL PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT NO LONGER DISABLED CHILDREN GROUP (PRWORA NLDC).

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No. 97-40

This All County Welfare Directors Letter is to provide aid code information about the new Medi-Cal-only group of "No longer disabled children" addressed in ACWDL 97-40. Specifically, this new group is composed of children discontinued from the Supplemental Security Income program due to the implementation of the new and more strict SSI childhood disability definition contained in the PRWORA of 1996. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33) specified in Section 4913 that this group will be grandfathered into Medicaid effective July 1, 1997. Currently the Department of Health Services is continuing zero share-of-cost (SOC) Medi-Cal for these children. Counties will take over the responsibility for eligibility determinations of the Medi-Cal PRWORA NLDC in Spring 1998.

As mentioned in our previous letter there will be approximately 10,000 disabled children who will be discontinued from SSI/SSP because they no longer meet the new childhood disability definition and seventy-five percent of these children are expected to be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). As long as these children are identified as this group that will be grandfathered into Medicaid, the county must track these cases by flagging them. These children can be identified by the following items:

- 1)MEDS Screen INQM: Aid Code 64, the Eligibility Status Code has 6 in the last digit (e.g. 006), the Government Responsibility Code is a 3, and Date of Birth (DOB) is under age 18.
- 2)MEDS Screen INQP: NOA Type 26 and DOB under age 18
- 3)MEDS Screen INQX: N07, T31 and DOB under age 18

When the under age 18 SSI NLD child turns age 18, he/she is no longer eligible to continue to receive Medi-Cal under the grandfathering provision. Upon turning age 18, the child must be redetermined for disability using adult disability criteria. Extended full scope, zero share of cost Medi-Cal eligibility will only continue to be given to the age 18 and over child if that child should have an SSI disability appeal pending on the cessation of his disability which will be similar to the way the former SSI no longer disabled adult is processed.

When a former SSI no longer disabled child becomes eligible for AFDC and goes into an AFDC aid code or later into the Edwards aid code, DHS cannot track the SSI appeal information. Therefore, if the county becomes aware during redetermination or routine case handling that one

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of these grandfathered children is age 18 or will shortly become age 18, the county will need to call Marie Taketa so that those who have an SSI disability appeal pending continues to be eligible for Medi-Cal at zero share of cost.

The grandfathered former SSI children who attain age 18 and who do NOT have an SSI appeal pending should be referred to SSA to be redetermined for SSI cash benefits using adult disability criteria. If a disability linkage for the child is advantageous to the Medi-Cal family budget unit, a Disability Evaluation Division (DED) packet can be referred to State Programs DED so that if the child is found disabled after attaining age 18 under adult disability criteria, special deductions for the disabled can be applied to the Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit.

Please begin immediately to prepare for the implementation of this program. Aid Code 6P will be used to identify the Medi-Cal PRWORA NLDC program. Please prepare for the accommodation of this aid code via county system changes. Aid Code 6P will be full-scope, zero SOC Medi-Cal.

Please designate a Medi-Cal PRWORA NLDC Program Coordinator and submit this information to Mary Maestas-Sandoval at the numbers below (fax or telephone) by November 30, 1997.

PRWORA NLDC regulations and procedures are under development. We will transmit procedures to counties upon completion.

If you have questions, concerning the NLDC program, please contact Ms. Mary Maestas-Sandoval of my staff at (916) 657-1248. Faxes may be sent to (916) 657-3224. For questions on the Former SSI No Longer Disabled Adults program, please contact Ms. Marie Taketa at (916) 657-1250.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch