

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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



December 4, 1999

TO: All County Welfare Directors  
All County Administrative Officers  
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons  
All County MEDS Coordinators  
All County Public Health Directors  
All County Mental Health Directors

Letter No.: 99-69

**SOCIAL SECURITY REDUCED CHECKS FOR CERTAIN IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BENEFICIARIES**

As you are aware, approximately 16,410 Medi-Cal/Medicare beneficiaries who receive in-home supportive services were notified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that their November 1999 Social Security checks would be reduced by \$136.50. SSA also told these beneficiaries that the State was no longer paying their Medicare Part B premiums.

This reduction was triggered by a State computer error which inadvertently indicated to SSA that the State was no longer paying (Buying-In) the Medicare Part B premiums for affected beneficiaries. SSA then deducted three months of Part B premiums (\$45.50 per month) from the November checks of these beneficiaries. The State informed SSA that the discontinuance of Buy-In was incorrect and that Medicare premium coverage is to be restored.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has been working with SSA to expedite the issuance of an SSA refund in the amount of the reduced November payment. DHS sent these beneficiaries a letter on November 1, 1999, explaining the situation and what is being done. Because counties have asked for a copy of that letter, we are providing that copy as an enclosure to this letter.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact either Lea Shalabi at (916) 654-5689 or Marlene Ratner at (916) 657-0715.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

ANGELINE MRVA, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

4 P STREET, Room 950  
PO BOX 942732  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320  
1-800-952-5294

ENCLOSURE



November 1, 1999

Dear Medi-Cal Beneficiary:

The Social Security Administration sent you a letter recently. That letter stated that your benefits were being reduced to pay for your Medicare premiums. **PLEASE IGNORE THAT LETTER. THE STATE WILL CONTINUE TO PAY YOUR MEDICARE PREMIUMS.** In addition, your Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance payment was reduced. Both the letter and the payment reduction were a result of a computer system error at the Department of Health Services.

**WE ARE WORKING WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION TO REFUND YOUR \$136.50 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** We are optimistic that you will be receiving this refund immediately.

We are sorry this error occurred. The State of California will do everything it can to make sure this does not happen again. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Health Services at 1-800-952-5294.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hooker, Chief  
Payment Systems Division