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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS  
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Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I 03-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: PRINTING CLIENT INDEX NUMBER ON THE BENEFITS  
IDENTIFICATION CARD

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change in the Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (BIC) process to print the client index number (CIN) instead of the recipient's social security number (SSN) on the front of the BIC. The CIN is a unique identifier assigned to beneficiaries by the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS). This change is being made to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act standards and to protect the identity of beneficiaries.

This change will become effective with all new or replacement BICs issued on or after March 26, 2003. This modification does not mean that all BICs are being replaced for the entire beneficiary population. The Department of Health Services anticipates that after a suitable amount of time, the beneficiary population will be examined to determine the number of old SSN BICs still in use and a decision on re-issuance will be made.

The immediate need paper card process will be modified beginning with the May 2003 month of eligibility to print the CIN, when available, on the paper card instead of the MEDS identification number (SSN or pseudo number). Beneficiaries who have not yet been assigned a CIN will have their MEDS-identification number printed on the paper card.

If questions arise or if county eligibility workers encounter any new BIC problems related to their cases, please contact Ms. Marlene King of my staff at (916) 657-0134.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Beth Fife, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch



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