



MEDI-CAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM UPDATE

December 2006



Employment/Training Detail Screen

This is a reminder to staff that whenever there are two parents in the home (either married or unmarried) and the primary wage earner (PWE) is working, it is important that the **“Hours/Month”** field and the **“Over 100 Hrs is Intermittent (Y/N)”** field on the LEADER **“Employment/Training Detail”** screen are completed correctly. Completing these two fields correctly is critical to establishing the correct deprivation for the family.

When the **“Hours/Month”** field is left blank, LEADER reads it as “no employment” and gives the household the deprivation factor of unemployment. The Eligibility Worker (EW) must enter the number of hours worked per month in the **“Hours/Month Field.”**

Intermittent means of a temporary nature. When the PWE’s working hours are more than 100 hours per month, the hours in excess of 100 hours are intermittent if the hours are of a temporary nature.

When the **“100 Hrs is Intermittent (Y/N)”** field is answered **“Yes”** for the PWE, the household is determined to be underemployed which provides them with a deprivation factor of unemployment.

If the PWE regularly works more than 100 hours in a month, the EW must enter **“No”** in the **“Over 100 Hrs is intermittent”** field on LEADER. The only time this question is answered **“Yes”** is if the hours of work are over 100 hours and the hours in excess of 100 hours are of a temporary nature.

Keep in mind that LEADER is now programmed to recognize when the income on a case is below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Therefore, if the PWE works over 100 hours per month, but the income is below the FPL, LEADER will apply the underemployment deprivation factor and manipulating the system is no longer required.

Ref.: ACWDL #99-54

Substantial Gainful Activity

The federal Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount will increase to \$900 effective January 1, 2007. All SGA determinations made on or after January 1, 2007, should utilize the new amount. Until LEADER is updated with the new amount, eligibility staff are to manually calculate the SGA amount according to the MC 272, SGA worksheet.

Ref. All County Welfare Directors Letter 06-34, dated November 16, 2006.

Three-Party Calls/ Authorization To Release Information



This is to remind staff that when an applicant/beneficiary contacts the EW and has a third party on the line, whether it is a relative, friend or advocate, the EW must provide requested information during that call since the participant has given verbal authorization to release that information to the third party.

These inquiries must be documented in LEADER Case Comments Screen reflecting the date of the call, the information discussed, and the names of both the participant authorizing the release of information, as well as the name of the third party.

Although the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual says that written authorization “should” be subsequently provided, it has been confirmed with California Department of Health Services that this is discretionary on the part of the county and is only to be used in situations where the EW has good reason to believe that the information is being requested under false pretenses.

Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manuals On-Line

This is to inform all staff that the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual is now available on-line at:
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mcs/mcpd/meb/medicaleligibilityproceduresmanual>

We will continue to provide copies of the manual letters as we receive them. However, the website can be helpful in replacing any missing sections or sharing information with your staff.

Happy Holidays!
From Medi-Cal Program Division

PUBLISHED BY:
The Los Angeles County
Department of Public Social Services
Bureau of Special Operations





Updating the LEADER Medi-Cal Resource PreScreen/Joint Application Tracking Number Screen

The "LEADER Medi-Cal Resource PreScreen/Joint Application Tracking" screen is queued following the "Case Summary" screen for all Medi-Cal applications that include a **pregnant woman and/or children under 19**. In order for EDBC to make the correct eligibility determination, the worker will need to know how to answer the following "Resource Information" question:

"Has the applicant provided current resource information for this application/eligibility period? [Y/N]"

Resources must be declared and verified for all Medi-Cal Programs, with the **exception** of the Asset Waiver Program.

If "Y" is entered in the field, then EDBC will evaluate for regular Medi-Cal. If there are excess or unverified resources, EDBC will also evaluate for Asset Waiver eligibility.

Enter "Y" if at the time of an interactive interview, the applicant states that he/she has no resources. For purposes of completing the Medi-Cal Resource PreScreen, the participant has provided resource information.

When an applicant/family member is eligible for the Asset Waiver Program, resource information is not required. For these cases when the answer is "N," LEADER will determine eligibility for the pregnant woman and/or children under the Asset Waiver Program only, if they are income eligible.

Note: When using an MC 321 HFP application, the Supplemental Real and Personal Property (MC 322) must be completed and any resources verified, if determining eligibility under programs other than the Asset Waiver Program. LEADER generates this form when the MC 321HFP is selected as the application used at intake.

Ref.: LEADER Build #151, dated 11/14/03, and Mail-In Medi-Cal Application and Asset Waiver Programs Training Material.

Treatment of Certificate of Deposit

For Medi-Cal purposes, a Certificate of Deposit (CD) is considered available property. Therefore, it is counted in the property reserve. If the applicant is over the property limit and has to withdraw the CD before the maturity date in order to spend down excess property, any penalties that the applicant incurs for early withdrawal are deducted from the amount of the CD. The amount remaining after deducting the penalties shall be considered the value of the CD and added to the property reserve. To be eligible for Medi-Cal in the month of application, the applicant needs to reduce his/her property to the property reserve limit before the end of the month.

Ref.: MEM Section 50402

ERRATA!

Medicare Savings Programs

This is to advise staff that there is an error on the laminated MSP Quick Guide, as well as that version of the Quick Guide which is an attachment to Administrative Directive 4212, dated March 12, 2003. The guides currently read that Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) are allowed for QMB but not for SLMB and QI. The correct policy is that IRWEs are allowed for the QMB, SLMB and QI programs.

Corrected quick guides will be produced and released following the new LEADER build for MSP.



Home Equity Lines of Credit

When an applicant/beneficiary declares that they have a home equity line of credit, this amount is **NOT** to be counted as personal property. Further, any amounts of money regularly withdrawn from the line of credit is not to be considered as income.

Income withdrawn in one month which is not entirely spent in that same month can be considered personal property in the following month.

Ref.: California State Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch, December 4, 2006



Happy Holidays!

From Medi-Cal Program Division
To our DPSS Colleagues

Thank you
for all that
you do!

