



Medi-Cal Health Care Program Update

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

JULY 2007

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- Attention: Effective July 1, 2007 California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is now the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

SP-DDSD DISABILITY DECISIONS – TAKE ACTION!

This is to remind staff of the importance of taking immediate action when the disability determination is received from the State Program-Disability Determination Service Division (SP-DDSD). Disability based Medi-Cal applications shall be processed within ninety (90) days from the date the application is taken or received at the district office. **This applies to all applications where the disability decision is received back within 90 days from the date of application.** The results of a recent state audit revealed that cases were not processed in a timely manner. In some instances, cases were disposed of two months after the disability determination was received.

Recommendations to assist in timely processing are as follows:

- ◆ Secure all pertinent information/documents that establish potential eligibility shortly after sending the disability referral to SP-DDSD. In some cases, staff requested this information after the disability determination was received back from SP-DDSD, thus causing the delay.
- ◆ Submit the disability referral to SP-DDSD no later than ten (10) days from the date the application is taken or received at the district office. If unable to do so, document the reasons.
- ◆ Document all actions taken.
- ◆ Dispose of the case as expeditiously as possible once the disability determination is received from SP-DDSD, making sure it is completed by the 90th day after application.

Ref: MEPM Article 4, Section 4-J; MEPM Article 22, Section C-8; MEM Section 50167

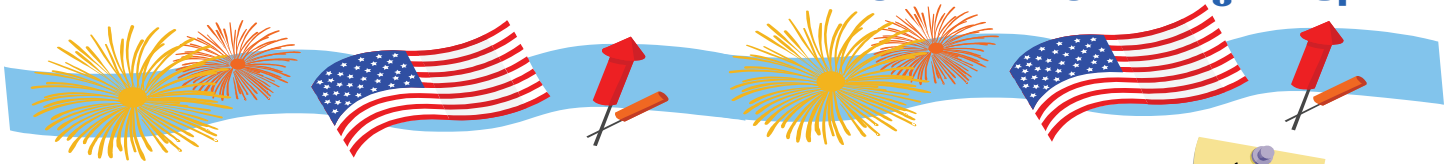


Medi-Cal Intake and Spend Down Rules

Intake staff is reminded to **explain** the "Spend Down" rules to applicants and provide them with the Informational Notice, MC 007. This procedure applies even when there is no appearance of excess property on the application. If the applicant has excess property, the Eligibility Worker must receive verification of the reduction of their property reserve within the application month to be eligible in that month, or within 30 days following the applicant's receipt of spend down information and explanation of spend down. Negative action for excess property must not be taken on a case until the end of this 30-day notification period. Additionally, disposition of the application should include a review for other Medi-Cal programs, such as the Asset Waiver Program, if appropriate.



Reference: MEPM Section 50420



State Mailers for Citizenship and Identity Verification

Final instructions have been received regarding the new regulations affecting U.S. citizens and Nationals. However, L.A. County has not implemented these changes. The State may send an informational mailer to notify all current Medi-Cal beneficiaries regarding the change in the law. Staff should be aware that the DHCS mailer may generate calls from participants who are concerned about the impact of the new law. Participants should be assured that there will be no change in their current status as a result of the new law until they have been notified by the county of the new verification procedures.

Plans for implementation of the new law are currently being developed for DPSS staff.

Also, DHCS established a record of beneficiaries that already have documented citizenship based on a match of MEDS and vital statistics records. A second mailer may be sent by DHCS to beneficiaries who have a matched birth record documented in MEDS. Callers who respond to this mailer should be assured that a vital record match can be requested at redetermination for individuals born in California who did not receive a mailer from the state informing them that a match was previously found.

Training material for the DHCS mailers was sent to District Directors on June 26, 2007.

NOTE: This change in regulation does not affect immigrants. Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) and undocumented persons who apply for Medi-Cal. These applications will follow existing rules and regulations in order to qualify for benefits.

Reference: All County Welfare Directors Letter 07-12 dated June 4, 2007.

Material Released in June 2007

- FML 4724 Supp I dated 06/07/07 - MC Info. Notice 007 General Prop. Limitations
- ACWDL No. 07-09 - Bridging

DON'T FORGET TO BRIDGE!



DOCUMENT! DOCUMENT! DOCUMENT!

Don't forget Case Comments

CHILD SUPPORT REFERRALS

When a Child Support referral for unmarried parents living together is sent to the Child Support Services Department (CSSD), a letter or a Two-Way Letter Gram (CW371) from CSSD may be received along with the referral indicating Paternity has already been established.

This is **not** a rejection of your referral and must be filed in the case record and updated in LEADER Case Comments.

If the parent leaves the home, a new referral **MUST** be submitted alerting Child Support Services of the change in circumstance.



Reference: MEPM Article 23

PUBLISHED BY:

**The Los Angeles County
Department of Public Social Services
Bureau of Special Operations**