



CDSS

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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

December 20, 2010

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 10-62

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES
 ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
 ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
 ALL LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
 COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: SPECIALIZED CARE INCREMENT (SCI) DETERMINATION DOCUMENTS

REFERENCE: TITLE IV-E SECTION 72 (42 UNITED STATES CODE 672); WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS (W&IC) CODE SECTION 11461; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS 11-401 AND 11-425; ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-131-82; ACIN 1-113-00 AND ACIN I-05-10

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to obtain current SCI rate determination methodologies for all participating counties so that they may be made available to other county child welfare and probation departments, foster parents and relative caregivers. Pursuant to MPP section 11-425.15, county child welfare agencies that participate in the Specialized Care Rate (SCR) Program must submit the information outlined on page two of this letter to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This information is needed by January 31, 2011.

Background

Starting in 1984, counties with existing specialized care systems or programs were permitted to retain them, to modify a current system or adopt a new system if the county demonstrated that general fund costs for Aid to Families with Dependent Children - Foster Care payments would not increase as the result of a new or modified system. The supplemental payments allowed under these systems are intended to cover the cost of additional care and supervision by the foster parent to meet the child's daily care needs. The MPP section 11-401.312 required all counties to provide CDSS with a description of their specialized care payment practices. This requirement is still in effect.

Because the program allows for individualized county rate structures, there is a wide variance between counties. This flexibility has created challenges for caregivers and between counties when children are placed in other counties. The CDSS has been asked by counties and stakeholders for

the criteria and qualifying factors used in participating counties to determine the SCI and to make those criteria and factors available in one central location. In response to those requests and to provide greater transparency, the SCI information from participating counties will be posted to CDSS' website.

Definition

The SCI is the supplemental payment added to the foster care basic rate for children with health and/or behavioral problems. The foster care *basic rate* + the specialized care *increment* = the specialized care *rate*. Information about SCI rates and developing county proposals can be found at MPP section 11-401.3 through 11-401.4.

Information Required

Currently, 55 counties participate in the SCI Program; Modoc, Plumas, and Sierra counties do not participate.

It is requested that methodology information and qualifying criteria be provided on county departmental letterhead and include:

- The SCI rate (supplemental amount above basic foster care rate);
- Criteria and methodology used to determine the increment at each payment level;
- Descriptions of the qualifying factors for each SCI level and
- Any forms used for SCI approval or denial.

A sample form has been developed for use in providing the above information to CDSS (see attached). It may be adapted to fit your county's criteria, methodologies and qualifying factors.

Counties may submit the information required to Julia Takeuchi via electronic mail at: julia.takeuchi@dss.ca.gov.

The SCI information can be found at <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1649.htm> listed under each participating county's name. The website will be updated as information is received.

If you have any questions regarding this letter you may contact the Foster Care Support Services Bureau of the Child and Youth Permanency Branch at (916) 651-7465.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

SCI-Rate Criteria
Narrative or description of qualifying factors

Examples Below:

Name of Behavior/Problem	Name of level, tier, step...			
Hyperreflexia: Exaggerated startle reflex, or response to stimuli	Mild: Can be readily controlled with specialized intervention	Moderate: Difficult to control, but will respond to sustained specialized intervention	Severe Requires almost continuous specialized intervention	
Eating	Level 1 Feeding 30-60 minutes due to serious medical problem	Level 2 Feeding over 60 minutes due to medical problem	Level 3 Intermittent G-tube feeding	Level 4 Continuous G-tube feeding
Diagnosis	Minimum: Child has a diagnosis or an at risk condition which requires monitoring and/or some special intervention	Moderate: Child has a diagnosis or an at risk condition which requires close monitoring and/or frequent interventions.	Intensive:	

Methodologies used. Brief description of processes used to develop qualifying factors (200 words or less). Examples: Workgroup participation, medical digests used, classification of personnel reviewing documentation.