

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 24, 2003

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 03-46

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL MEDI-CAL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROCESSING MEDI-CAL FOR NEWBORNS

REFERENCE: DHS-ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTOR LETTERS NO. 01-17, 01-36 AND 01-39, 99-01, DSS ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-32-01, MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL (MEPM) SECTION 50000, AND MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) 40-171.211 and 44-319.13 and .2

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to instruct counties on the immediate authorization of cash aid and Medi-Cal for newborns of women who are Medi-Cal eligible in a CalWORKs case. Further, this ACL is to serve as a reminder to county welfare departments of the importance of establishing or continuing Medi-Cal for eligible families.

Concerns have been raised that newborns whose CalWORKs cash aid has not been approved are not able to access the necessary medical care to which they may be eligible. Counties currently instruct pregnant women to contact the county once the infant is born to report the infant's name, gender, date of birth and to establish whether the infant is residing with the mother. The contact from the recipient can be done by phone. The county must then obtain verification prior to authorizing aid for the newborn. If the mother does not report the baby's birth before the end of the expected birth month, counties must contact and document at least two attempted contacts by mail or telephone with the mother by the end of the month following the anticipated date of birth. (Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual (MEPM) Section 50000 and ACWDL 99-01).

Effective with this letter, verification will not be required prior to authorizing aid for the newborn when the parent(s) has already been determined to be CalWORKs eligible and the newborn is a mandatorily included person. Counties may obtain the required information via the telephone in order to immediately authorize cash aid and Medi-Cal for the newborn pending receipt of necessary CalWORKs cash aid verification (e.g. birth certificate and CW 8A).

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Upon notification of the birth, name, and gender of the newborn, county staff shall take immediate action to authorize Medi-Cal eligibility and issue a card for the newborn effective from the date of birth. CalWORKs cash aid will be authorized and effective in accordance with regulation in place on the date of authorization. (Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 40-171.211 and 44-318.11 and 15.)

Counties shall continue to pursue the gathering of information/verifications that support the CalWORKs eligibility determination for the newborn. All mandatory inclusion rules and other eligibility requirements continue to apply.

Counties are also reminded to continue to refer to the Medi-Cal program all discontinued/denied CalWORKs cases or individuals for a determination of Medi-Cal eligibility required by ACIN I-32-01, dated May 10, 2001, and DHS-All County Welfare Directors Letter 01-36.

If you have any questions about the processing of the newborn for CalWORKs, please contact Rosie Avena at (916) 654-1514.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CDWA
CSAC