

Department of Health Services



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 11, 2006

N.L.: 02-0106

Supplement to N.L.: 09-0900

Index: Benefits

TO: ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS)
ADMINISTRATORS, MEDICAL DIRECTORS, MEDICAL
CONSULTANTS, STATE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES
(CMS) STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: UPDATE TO MEDI-CAL APPROVED CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE
FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CCS
ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

BACKGROUND

Cochlear implantation has been an approved method of treating profound, bilateral sensorineural hearing loss since the mid 1980's. Cochlear implants have been a benefit of the Medi-Cal Program for adults since 1996 and a benefit of the CCS Program since September 2000. Numbered Letter (N.L.): 09-0900, identified the original Medi-Cal "Centers of Excellence" approved to perform cochlear implants on CCS beneficiaries under 21 years of age. The purpose of this supplement to N.L. 09-0900, is to update the list of Medi-Cal approved Cochlear Implant Centers authorized to provide services to CCS beneficiaries as follows:

- Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford was approved as a Center of Excellence for Cochlear Implants by the Medi-Cal Program on November 3, 2005.
- UC Davis Medical Center requested withdrawal of its approval as a designated Center of Excellence for Cochlear Implants for children effective September 2005.

POLICY

Effective the date of this letter, no new authorizations for cochlear implant evaluations will be issued to UC Davis Medical Center. UC Davis Medical Center will continue to serve CCS clients that have either received Cochlear Implants at their Center or remain in the process of evaluation. Authorizations to UC Davis Cochlear Implant Center may be issued for post Cochlear Implant services only in accordance with N.L.: 09-0900.

A CCS authorization for Cochlear Implant evaluation, surgery and post implant services may be issued, in accordance with N.L.: 09-0900 and this supplement to the following Medi-Cal approved Centers of Excellence for Cochlear Implants:

- Children's Hospital, Oakland
- Children's Hospital, San Diego
- Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
- House Ear Institute, Los Angeles
- UCLA Medical Center

If you have questions regarding these policy changes, please contact the nurse consultant in your CMS Regional Office.

Original Signed By:

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch