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November 18, 1996

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY MANUAL LETTER NO.: 175

TO: All Holders of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual

Enclosed are revisions to Article 24, Refugee Medical Assistance, of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual.

**Procedure Revision:**

Article 24

**Description:**

Revisions to the Procedures for Refugee Medical Assistance due to clarifications in policy, and HR 3734, Federal Welfare Reform Legislation.

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If you have any questions concerning a specific revision, please contact Elena Lara of my staff at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Glenda Arellano for  
 Frank S. Martucci, Chief  
 Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure



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## MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

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# MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

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## 24A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. INTRODUCTION

It has been the policy of the United States to provide asylum and humanitarian assistance to persons subject to persecution in their homelands. This humanitarian resettlement assistance is provided through the states but is funded through the federal government. The purpose of this refugee assistance is so that refugees can more quickly adapt to their new country, become economically self-sufficient, and ultimately participate in and contribute to their new communities.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Congress created the Cuban Refugee Program in 1962. This Act provided 100 percent federal refugee funding for cash assistance, medical assistance, and social services programs for needy Cuban refugees. Congress passed similar legislation for Indochinese refugees in 1975. In 1977, legislation was passed which required the transfer of refugees into the standard Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Medicaid programs if the refugees fit those programs, and provided for the phasedown of both special refugee programs over a period of from four to six years.

The federal Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), enacted March 17, 1980, repealed the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 completely, but left in place the Cuban Program Phasedown (formerly the Cuban Refugee Program) for all Cubans who entered the United States (U.S.) prior to October 1, 1978. Public Law 96-212 removes national origin as an eligibility factor for refugee assistance and provides for uniform treatment for all persons who are admitted to the U.S. as refugees. Cuban refugees who entered the U.S. on or after October 1, 1978 are included under this Act. The Act originally provided for special refugee funding (100 percent FFP) for a period of not more than 36 months beginning with the refugee's entry into the United States. The present time eligibility period is eight months.

The Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-422), enacted October 10, 1980, was amended (Fascell/Stone Amendment) to provide Cuban and Haitian entrants benefits similar to those provided to refugees. (Most Cuban and Haitian entrants are not eligible under the Refugee Act since they are not considered refugees.) Entrants and refugees are given the same time eligibility period depending on current budget allotments.

Under Section 584, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, incorporated as part of Fiscal Year 1988 Continuing Resolution, Public Law 100-202, certain Amerasians in Vietnam and their close family members are to be admitted through the Orderly Departure Program beginning March 20, 1988, under immigrant status. This legislation grants this group status as refugees and eligible to Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funded cash assistance, medical assistance and social services.

### 3. FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 400 (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 22, 2/3/89 and Vol. 60, No. 124, 6/28/95), provides federal refugee funding, subject to availability, to states for cash and medical assistance for eligible refugees. As of July 1, 1989, and October 1, 1995, these regulations set forth the requirements for receipt of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), employment services, Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), and refugee social services, and a new requirement to provide RMA to eligible refugees even if they lose cash assistance eligibility due to increased earnings from employment.

H.R. 3734, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, provides for limited eligibility of Refugees for federal benefits. Refugees are classified as Qualified Aliens under this legislation.

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### 4. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Under the Refugee Act, the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) administers the program nationally in order to provide financial assistance, medical assistance, and social services to all refugees in the United States regardless of national origin.

Under a refugee resettlement state plan submitted to ORR, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is designated to administer the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) for the State of California, and the Director of DSS is the State Refugee Coordinator.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is designated to administer the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program for the State of California. DHS receives a grant directly from ORR for purposes of administering the RMA program. The Medical Services Division oversees the RMA program. The Refugee Health Branch in the Preventive Health Division oversees the refugee preventive health program through county refugee health coordinators to ensure that every refugee, upon initial entry into the State of California, is given a complete health assessment and screening and, if needed, follow-up treatment and care. This is also funded through ORR.

The county welfare departments are to determine the eligibility of refugees for AFDC, RCA, RMA, SSI, or Medi-Cal, and to aid in the identification and tracking of refugees through the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System.

### 5. CASE MONITORING

Through an agreement with the DSS Refugee Programs Branch, case monitoring for the RMA program is done by their Quality Control Bureau along with the case monitoring for RCA cases in the counties. Since the same documentation and similar criteria except for a few Medi-Cal requirements must be met for RMA eligibility, it was decided that it was cost effective for DSS to monitor RMA cases along with RCA cases in their normal county case monitoring reviews. DHS provided an RMA case monitoring form to DSS for this process.

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## 24B-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 1. DEFINITION OF REFUGEE

For purposes of determining eligibility for assistance, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 50257, states that refugees and entrants who apply for Medi-Cal under the RMA or EA programs shall meet the definition contained in the DSS Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) of "refugee" (MPP Secs. 69.203.1 and 69.203.2), "children of refugees" (MPP Sec. 69-203.3), or "entrant" (MPP Secs. 69-301-305).

#### a. REFUGEE

##### (1) Persons identified by federal government as refugees:

- o An individual from Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam who was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and who possesses a Form I-94 indicating the parole status.
- o An individual from Cuba who entered the United States on or after October 1, 1978, and was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA as is indicated on Form I-94.
- o An individual from any country other than Cambodia, Laos, or Vietnam or Cuba who was paroled under Section 212(d)(5) of the INA as a refugee or asylee.
- o An individual from any country admitted as a conditional entrant, prior to April 1, 1980, under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as is indicated on Form I-94.
- o An individual from any country admitted as a refugee under Section 207 of the INA as indicated on Form I-94.
- o An individual from any country who has been granted asylum under Section 208 of the INA as indicated on Form I-94.
- o An individual from any country who is now a permanent resident alien as indicated by a Form I-151 or I-551 (Resident Alien forms), who previously held one of the statuses specified above.
- o An individual admitted under the Amerasian Homecoming Act as an Amerasian. Only Amerasians from Vietnam are eligible. Form I-94 with code AM1, AM2, AM3; I-551 with code AM1, AM2, AM3, AM6, AM7 or AM8; Vietnamese Exit Visa, Vietnamese passport, or U.S. passport if stamped AM1, AM2, or AM3.

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- (2) Persons not identified by the federal government as refugees:
  - o Any person with INS status of applicant for asylum or Humanitarian/Public Interest Parolee.
  - o Those persons who are actually dependent upon a repatriated United States citizen, except those dependents who qualify as refugees (eligible to RCA/RMA/EMA after 90 days), and who meet one of the following categories of relationship with such citizen: spouse, parents, grandparents, unmarried minor (under 18), children (adopted children and stepchildren), unmarried adult children (dependent because of handicap), spouse's parents, spouse's grandparents and minor siblings of the repatriate and spouse.
- (3) Children of Refugees eligible for RMA/EMA and identified by the federal government as refugees:
  - o Children born in the United States of refugee parents, but must first be determined if eligible for Medi-Cal.
  - o Children who are born of a refugee and a U.S. citizen living with the refugee parent only, but must first be determined if eligible for Medi-Cal.
  - o Children who are born of a refugee and a U.S. citizen where U.S. citizen is part of household **are not** eligible.
  - o Children of refugees who are relinquished for foster care placement **are not** eligible.
  - o Minor refugee children with no legal relationship to an adult should be referred to local county agency to establish that relationship.
- (4) Cuban/Haitian Entrants
  - o Cubans and Haitians who possess an INS Form I-94 which states "Cuban/Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)".
  - o Haitians who possess an INS Form I-94 which states that the person is a citizen of Haiti who has been either "Paroled" or granted "Voluntary Departure" status.
  - o Cubans who possess an INS Form I-94 which meets all of the following requirements: (a) states person is citizen of Cuba; (b) person was paroled on or after April 21, 1980; and (c) does **NOT** contain words "**Outstanding Order of Exclusion**".



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### 2. RMA/EMA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE MEDI-CAL PROGRAM

Refugees and Entrants must be determined ineligible for AFDC, SSI/SSP, Medi-Cal or Medically Indigent Child programs before they can be placed in RMA/EMA. They are ineligible for Medi-Cal for lack of linkage, but must meet all other Medi-Cal eligibility requirements, such as property limits, state residence, cooperation, institutional status.

a. Specific Requirements under RMA/EMA:

(1) Must meet financial eligibility requirements for Medi-Cal program in accordance with CCR, Title 21, Articles 4-13, except that in-kind services and/or shelter provided to refugees by a sponsor or resettlement agency are not to be considered as income.

(2) Eligibility is to be determined for each individual member of a family. For example, if a child is eligible for Medi-Cal but parents are not, place this child on Medi-Cal and parents on RMA/EMA.

**(NOTE: This requirement pertains to RMA only; Not for AFDC, RCA, or TRMA.)**

(3) Recipients of RCA or ECA shall automatically receive a Medi-Cal card. But receipt of RCA/ECA is not a condition of RMA/EMA eligibility. Refugees may apply for RMA-EMA-Only benefits.

b. Refugees ineligible for RMA/EMA:

(1) Refugees who have been denied or have been terminated from RCA/ECA for failure or refusal to comply with registration, employment, education or training requirements of MPP Section 69-208.

(2) Refugees who are full-time students in an institution of higher education (MPP Section 69-206.51) unless it is part of an employability plan developed by a county welfare department or its designee (MPP Secs. 69-206.52, 69-206.53, or 69-206.54), or is part of a plan for an unaccompanied minor (69-213.23 or 69-213.62).

### 3. MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER H.R. 3734

All Refugees are eligible for benefits under H.R. 3734 and are classified as Qualified Aliens.

**FEDERAL BENEFITS:** Refugees are eligible for full scope benefits under Medi-Cal for a five-year period. This five-year period to begin on the date of entry for a refugee. This is effective on August 22, 1996. However, in the transition period, all aliens are eligible until January 1997 if they were lawfully residing in the State and were receiving benefits on August 22, 1996 even if their five-year period is over before then. Refugees who have exceeded their five-year limitation will continue to be eligible for treatment of an emergency medical condition under Medi-Cal.

**FEDERAL MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFITS:** All Refugees for five years after Date of Entry are not to be denied any federal means-tested public benefit as listed below:

1. Emergency medical care and services
2. Short-term, non-cash, in-kind emergency disaster relief
3. Assistance or benefits under the National School Lunch Act
4. Assistance or benefits under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
5. Public health assistance

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6. Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
7. Programs, services or assistance specified by the Attorney General which deliver in-kind services at community level which are not conditioned by person's income or resources and are necessary for the protection of life or safety
8. Programs of student assistance under Titles IV, V, IX, and X of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and Titles III, VII, and VIII of the Public Health Service Act
9. Means-tested programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
10. Benefits under the Head Start Act
11. Benefits under the Job Training Partnership Act

**STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFITS:** Refugees are limited to a five-year period from date of entry into the United States for receipt of state and local public benefits. Refugees who are lawfully residing in the State and who are receiving benefits on August 22, 1996 will continue to receive such benefits until January 1997 even if his/her five-year period is over before then. Refugees may choose to apply for citizenship or naturalization. As a citizen, these former refugees would qualify for full scope Medi-Cal benefits if otherwise qualified.

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### 4. RESETTLEMENT AGENCY IDENTIFICATION

- a. Voluntary resettlement agencies have Reception and Placement (R&P) contracts with the United States Department of State. They are supposed to:
- (1) Ensure that newly-arriving refugees are provided appropriate and adequate sponsorship.
  - (2) Assist these newly-arriving refugees for at least 90 days after their arrival in United States.
  - (3) Assist them to become self-sufficient as soon as possible.
  - (4) Services to be provided are:
    - o Reception Services: Meeting refugees at the airport and providing decent housing, essential furnishings, food and clothing.
    - o Counseling and Referral Services: Orientation to life in America, and referral for health screening and employment services.
- b. Under federal RMA regulations, refugees who are applying for medical assistance must provide the name of the resettlement agency to the county welfare department.
- (1) The county may then contact the resettlement agency and ask what assistance is being provided.
  - (2) The county may then enter the name and address of the agency in the case file.
  - (3) The county should record the amount of the resettlement cash grant, if any, in the case file. These grants are considered unearned income in month received.
  - (4) Do not consider in-kind services and shelter provided to a refugee by a resettlement agency as income.
  - (5) List of Voluntary Agencies in United States:

American Council for Nationalities Service  
95 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 532-5858  
Fax: (212) 532-8558

Church World Service  
Immigration and Refugee Program  
475 Riverside Drive - Room 666  
New York, New York 10115-0050  
(212) 870-3304  
Fax: (212) 870-2132

Cuban Exodus Relief Fund  
7392 NW 35th Terrace - Suite 209  
Miami, Florida 33122  
(305) 592-7768  
Fax: (305) 592-7889

Episcopal Migration Ministries  
The Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) 867-8400  
Fax: (212) 972-0860

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Ethiopian Community Development  
Council, Inc.  
1038 S. Highland  
Arlington, Virginia 22204  
(703) 685-0510  
Fax: (703) 685-0529

International Rescue Committee  
386 Park Avenue South - 10th Floor  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 679-0010  
Fax: (212) 689-3459

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
390 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016-8803  
(212) 532-6350  
Fax: (212) 683-1329

United States Catholic Conference  
Migration and Refugee Services  
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017  
(202) 541-3220  
Fax: (212) 541-3399

USA Ministries  
World Relief Refugee Services  
P.O. Box WRC  
Nyack, New York 10960  
(914) 268-4135  
Fax: (914) 268-2271

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society  
333 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 12001-5004  
(212) 967-4100  
Fax: (212) 967-4442

Bureau of Refugee Programs  
Iowa Department of Human Services  
1200 University Avenue - Suite D  
Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2330  
(515) 283-7999/(800) 362-2780  
Fax: (515) 283-9224

Tolstoy Foundation, Inc.  
200 Park Avenue South - 16th Floor  
New York, New York 10003  
(212) 677-7770  
Fax: (212) 674-0519

United States Catholic Conference  
Migration and Refugee Services  
902 Broadway - 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10010  
(212) 614-1277  
Fax: (212) 614-1201

InterAction  
1717 Mass. Ave., NW  
Suite 801  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 667-8227  
Fax: (202) 667-8236

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### 5. AID CODES

Aid codes are used to classify and report specific benefits provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Aid codes for refugees are:

<u>CODE</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u>	<u>SHARE/COST</u>	<u>PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</u>
01	FULL	NO	Refugee Cash Assistance (FFP). Includes unaccompanied children. Covers all eligible refugees during their first eight months in the United States. Unaccompanied children are not subject to the eight-month limitation provision.
0A	FULL	NO	Refugee Cash Assistance (FFP). Includes unaccompanied children. Covers all eligible refugees during their first eight months in the United States. This population is the same as Aid Code 01 except they are exempt from AFDC grant reductions on behalf of the Assistance Payments Demonstration Project/California Work pays Demonstration Project.
02	FULL	YES/NO	Refugee Medical Assistance/Entrant Medical Assistance (FFP). Covers refugees and entrants who need Medi-Cal and who do not qualify for or want cash assistance. Possible share of cost if income above Medi-Cal level. <b>Transitional RMA has no share of cost.</b>
08	FULL	NO	Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA)(FF). Provides ECA benefits to Cuban/Haitian entrants, including unaccompanied children who are eligible, during their first eight months in the United States. (For entrants, the month begins with their date of parole.) Unaccompanied children are not subject to the eight-month limitation provision.

### 6. TRANSITIONAL REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 400 entitled Refugee Resettlement Program; Final Rule, as amended on June 28, 1995 eliminates the restriction of a maximum of four months of Transitional RMA (TRMA). With the new federal regulation change, RMA recipients who become employed are entitled to TRMA benefits until the end of their eight-month time eligibility period, or they can lose RCA cash benefits because of increased earnings from employment after the first month of RCA and be eligible for up to seven months of zero share-of-cost TRMA to the end of the present time eligibility period of eight months.

For Refugee family assistance units in RCA, if the head of the family loses RCA benefits because of increased earnings, place the family unit in transitional RMA with no share of cost for the remaining time eligibility period. Each individual family member would still retain his or her own time eligibility period from date of entry.

For refugees in a matching grant program where a voluntary resettlement agency provides cash and medical benefits for up to four months with direct ORR funding, if the refugee is employed at the end of the four months, he/she now can automatically be placed in the RMA program until the end of the eight-month eligibility period. The old regulation for TRMA technically implied that a person was required to have been receiving RCA cash benefits in order to be eligible for TRMA. This implied

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requirement is no longer a barrier to receipt of TRMA benefits. TRMA benefits under this regulation are available to any refugee who loses refugee cash assistance in any program (matching grant, Fish-Wilson, or RCA) because of increased earnings from employment, regardless of whether the refugee obtains private medical coverage, as long as the RMA payment is reduced by the amount of the third party payment.

Other transitional medical assistance for which refugees may be eligible is the Initial Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC) which is six months of transitional Medi-Cal which covers individuals discontinued from AFDC due to increased earnings, or hours of employment, or loss of the \$30 and 1/3 disregard. This is for full benefits with no share of cost under Aid Code 39. An additional six months of TMC is available to persons if the increased earnings did not increase their income above the 185 percent poverty level. This is also for full benefits with no share of cost under Aid Code 59.

Assembly Bill 3483 amended Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections 14005.8 and 14005.85 and added W&I Code Section 14005.81 to change TMC upon receipt of a federal waiver approval. Once the waiver is approved, persons receiving TMC because they were terminated from AFDC due to increased hours of employment, income from employment, or loss of the earned income disregard will be eligible for TWO years of TMC. However, this additional year will NOT BE provided to persons who are also receiving TMC due to the reuniting of spouses or marriage (Wedfare).

### 7. TIME ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) sets forth the requirements for receipt of RCA and RMA. When this program first began in 1980 all refugees were entitled to 36 months of 100 percent of refugee resettlement funding for cash and medical assistance. Now, Congress has only appropriated 100 percent funding for eight months of eligibility. This funding is only available for refugees in RCA Aid Code 01, RMA Aid Code 02, and EMA Aid Code 08, which is for Cuban/Haitians. All other refugees in SSI, AFDC, and Medi-Cal are paid for through the normal 50/50 General Fund/Federal Fund Match.

Under federal and state regulation, eligibility for RMA or EMA programs shall be limited to the shorter of the following periods:

- a. The refugee's first eight months of United States residency, beginning with the month of entry, or the Entrant's (including Entrant children born in United States resettlement camps) first eight months of parole (release from Immigration and Naturalization Service custody).
- b. The time period for which DHS determines that sufficient federal funds are available under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) and Cuban and Haitian Entrant Program (CHEP).

### 8. NOTICE OF ACTION

When sending a Notice of Action (NOA) to a Refugee, the notice must distinguish clearly that it is RMA or Transitional RMA. Counties are to indicate on the NOA that assistance is granted, denied, or terminated, and the NOA must specify the program to make sure it is a Notice for RMA, Transitional RMA, or Medi-Cal. If the recipient is determined ineligible for Medi-Cal, but eligible for RMA, the NOA must so state. Counties should follow requirements for NOA's per Title 22, CCR, Sections 50179 and 50179.5. This will meet the requirements of federal regulation 45 CFR 400.93 for Refugee Medical Assistance.

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### Suggested Language:

1. The reason for this denial/discontinuance is that you have been discontinued from RMA because your earnings from employment are higher than the standard set by the State of California Medi-Cal program. However, you are eligible for Transitional RMA until the end of your eight-month time eligibility period. Reference: 45 CFR Part 400.
2. The reason for this denial/discontinuance is that you are at the end of your eight-month eligibility period for RMA and you are not eligible for any other Medi-Cal program. Reference: 45 CFR Part 400.
3. The reason for this denial/discontinuance is that you are at the end of your eligibility period for Transitional RMA. Reference: 45 CFR Part 400.

### 9. TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

Refugees in Aid Codes 01 (RCA), 02 (RMA), and 08 (Entrants) are those refugees who are ineligible for regular assistance programs such as SSI, AFDC and Medi-Cal. When these individuals finish their eight-month time eligibility period under the federal program, they usually go on to county GA programs if they are still unemployed and have no health coverage. They are single adults or married adults with no children. These individuals would benefit from the new TB Medi-Cal program once their eight-month time eligibility period under RCA, RMA, or EMA has expired and they are infected with TB.

#### Eligibility Requirements for TB Program:

- a. Be infected with TB. This factor links a person to Medi-Cal.
- b. Not be a Medi-Cal beneficiary whose coverage is mandated by federal laws.
- c. Be a United States citizen or a person who has satisfactory immigration status.
- d. Have income and resources which do not exceed the maximum amount for a disabled individual under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Income cannot exceed an amount referred to as the TB income standard. (See details under Article 5N, Part E.) Property can be no more than \$2,000 for an individual including a child. However, when two parents are present when determining a child's property eligibility, the parents are allowed \$3,000 as a deduction from their property before it is deemed to the TB child.
- e. Meet all other Medi-Cal requirements. This factor addresses non-linking Medi-Cal requirements such as cooperation, verification, status reporting, etc.
- f. Eligibility for the TB program shall begin the first month eligibility is approved. A person with TB may be eligible for up to three months of retroactive benefits. However, retroactive coverage is only available on or after October 1, 1994.
- g. TB infected individuals under this program shall be eligible for outpatient TB-related services **only**.
- h. Individuals eligible under this program shall have no share of cost.

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### 10. MANAGED CARE

Legislation passed in 1991 and 1992 provided the Department of Health Services with the authority for automatic enrollment of Medi-Cal beneficiaries into managed care, which in essence is to arrange and encourage access to health care through enrollment in organized, managed care plans of the type available to the general public. Managed care has been characterized as a planned, comprehensive approach to the provision of health care that combines clinical services and administrative procedures within an integrated, coordinated system that is carefully constructed to provide timely access to primary care and other necessary services in a cost-effective manner. This expansion of managed care into Medi-Cal is being done to improve access to quality medical care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and to control costs.

Under managed care, the covered aid groups will generally be AFDC, AFDC-linked medically needy only with no share of cost, and medically indigent children. Optional aid groups are those Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving SSI grants, and SSI-linked Medi-Cal medically needy with no share of cost. Foster care children will be included in managed care on a county-by-county basis.

Since refugees may fall into the above categories eligible for managed care, there will be refugees in the managed care program. These refugees will be entitled to cultural and interpreter services if the ethnic population of a specific culture is above 3,000 in a specific area. The Refugee Health Branch of DHS is working with the Managed Care Division to ensure that access to quality medical care will be available to refugees and to ensure that there is an informational link between the county refugee health coordinators and the managed care plans regarding every refugee's health care needs beginning with their initial health assessment to continuing and preventive health care under the managed care program.

### 11. SAVE

All applicants for RMA, RCA, or any other assistance program are verified as having satisfactory immigration status through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. However, because of delays in INS' ability to input data into the system on newly arriving refugees, California has been granted a waiver for a period of 12 months from the date of entry of a refugee. Therefore, only primary verification will be required and secondary verification will be delayed until the time of the first redetermination or 12 months.

This waiver applies only to the secondary verification requirement. All applicants must have proper identification to substantiate whether they are a citizen or alien in satisfactory immigration status to receive Medicaid benefits. The waiver will apply only to refugees applying for AFDC and Medicaid benefits, who have just entered the country, and for whom it is unlikely the SAVE system will have information. The waiver does not apply if a refugee has been on RCA or RMA, or has been in the country for six or more months.



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## 24E. REFUGEE TRACKING SYSTEM

### 1. PURPOSE

To report and track specific information on all Refugees admitted to the United States by the State Department. All Refugees would include Refugees who are in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, and 08, which are eligible for eight months of federal funding, those who are eligible for AFDC, SSI, or Medi-Cal, those who are time-expired who re-apply for aid and are not yet citizens, and citizen children born to Refugee parents.

Since 1980, counties were required to report this information on Form MC 255 "Refugee Cross Reference Transaction". These forms were submitted monthly and were used to update the Refugee Tracking System. This information is used by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to claim 100 percent federal financial participation (FFP) for medical assistance rendered to time-eligible refugees. The Department of Social Services (DSS) uses this information to claim 100 percent FFP for Refugee Cash Assistance and for allocation of Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance funds. In order to claim this FFP, specific information such as the refugee's status and date of entry into the United States is required by the federal government.

### 2. REFUGEE TRACKING SYSTEM

Counties are required to report Refugee Name, Social Security Number (SSN), Refugee Indicator Code (1, 5, 7, 8), County ID Number, and INS Entry Date on the MC 255. As of March 1, 1996, counties are able to do this MC 255 reporting process directly on MEDS in conjunction with their normal eligibility reporting and are able to take advantage of the fact that MEDS maintains a single record irrespective of changes in the County ID. There will no longer be a need for a separate record for a refugee on the old Refugee Tracking System Database and a record on MEDS. On March 1, 1996, the Refugee Tracking System became part of the MEDS system. This was accomplished through a one-time conversion of the old Refugee Tracking System into the MEDS database. All information previously reported to the Refugee Tracking System was posted to MEDS.

Counties must report all information previously reported through the MC 255 process directly onto MEDS. The county receives a Renewal Alert for any individual eligible in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, or 08 for whom MEDS does not have a Refugee/Alien Indicator and INS Entry Date. Daily alerts will be issued when eligibility is reported in one of those aid codes and the two required fields are not present either on MEDS or on the transaction.

The REFUGEE INDICATOR CODES used for the Refugee Tracking System Are:

0	Other Alien (not aged)
1	Indochinese Refugee
5	Citizen Children Born to Refugee Parents
7	Other Refugee
8	Cuban/Haitian Refugee
9	Aged Alien (Medicare Ineligible and not 1, 7 or 8)

(NOTE: Indochinese Refugees are now identified by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement under the ethnic group Southeast Asian which are the Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Mien, Cambodian and Burmese Refugees.)

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### 3. CHANGES TO MEDS TRANSACTIONS

The Five data elements added to MEDS transactions for the Refugee Tracking System and the Medicare Buy-in Process are:

Alien Registration Number	-	ALIEN-NO
Country of Origin	-	COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN
Eligibility Approval Date	-	ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE
Refugee/Alien Indicator	-	REFUGEE/ALIEN
INS Entry Date	-	INS-ENTRY-DATE

### 4. SPECIFIC CHANGES TO MEDS SCREENS

- o INQO - Other Miscellaneous Information Inquiry Screen

The MEDS Screens were changed as follows:

- Added ALIEN-NO
  - Renamed MN-APPROVAL-DATE to ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE

- o INQR - Recipient Inquiry Request Screen

- Added ALIEN-NO as an identification field that can be used to locate a recipient record; that field will not be usable until future changes are made to build a cross reference file of Alien Identification Numbers that have been reported to MEDS.

- o EW20 and EW30 Screens

- Added COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN
  - Added ALIEN-NO
  - Allowed entry of data in REFUGEE/ALIEN field
  - Allowed entry of data in INS-ENTRY-DATE field
  - Renamed MN-APPROVAL-DATE to ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE and allowed entry of data in that field

- o EW05 Screen

- Added COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN
  - Added ALIEN-NO
  - Added REFUGEE/ALIEN
  - Added INS-ENTRY-DATE
  - Added ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE

- o EW15 and EW55 Screens

- Added ALIEN-NO

All of the fields added or revised to allow entry of data on the EW05, EW20, and EW30 screens are also accepted on the corresponding batch transactions. All of these fields are optional fields on the transactions. Refer to the Data Element Dictionary pages for the Data Element Numbers and requirements for batch reporting of these fields.

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### 5. AGED ALIENS WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR MEDICARE

Counties may report INS-ENTRY-DATE and REFUGEE/ALIEN to the EW20 and EW30 transactions as part of their normal eligibility reporting to MEDS to report an aged alien who is not yet eligible for Medicare because of the five-year resident requirement. This alien should not be a refugee. MEDS will suppress presumed Medicare eligible coding and bypass the Renewal Alert to refer an individual to apply for Medicare when five years have passed.

REFUGEE/ALIEN value 9 (nine) is used to identify these individuals and the edits are the same as those currently applied to the EW15 transaction. The value nine may be reported as soon as an individual reaches 64 years and 9 months of age. Reporting of the aged alien value via batch updates is optional; counties who have very few of these individuals may choose to continue using the online EW15 to report this information to MEDS.

### 6. OTHER ALIENS

REFUGEE/ALIEN value 0 (zero) must be used to allow reporting of aliens who are neither aged aliens ineligible for Medicare nor Refugees. Reporting of the zero value is optional. However, for statistical purposes and for the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE), it is necessary to enter this Zero, the Alien Registration Number, and INS Entry Date (if known).

### 7. ALIEN REGISTRATION NUMBER

This Alien Registration Number must be entered for all aliens, not just refugees. This is necessary for building a cross-reference file within MEDS and to use it as an additional file clearance check to minimize building of duplicate records and to locate a MEDS record. It may also be used in the future to automatically generate a SAVE request when annual redetermination is due.

### 8. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Counties should enter the COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN for all aliens. This information can be used to generate statistical reports.

### 9. REFUGEE CHILDREN

Children who are born in the United States of Refugee parents are citizens, but they are considered refugees by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement for both time-eligibility and for statistical purposes in determining federal funding allocations for Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance which benefit refugee-impacted counties as identified by the Department of Social Services.

Refugee Citizen Children are considered Refugees until they reach the age of 21 or until the date their parents become citizens. If one of the parents living in the home is a citizen, the citizen child is not to be considered a Refugee. The Country of Origin for these Citizen Children would be the same as parents.

Counties must report all Refugee Citizen Children with a Refugee Code of 5 (five). The INS Entry Date for the children in Aid Codes 0A, 01, 02, or 08 is the same as the parents, but if one parent arrived later than the other, the child is to be given the INS Entry Date of the later parent and the same eligibility period. For all other Refugee Citizen Children in AFDC, Medi-Cal, or SSI aid codes, the INS Entry Date is no longer optional. This Entry Date is mandatory for the Final Allocation of Targeted Assistance. When it is reported, use the INS Entry Date as above.



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### MEDS SCREENS/DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY/ERROR MESSAGES

The following pages will contain samples of new MEDS screens, Data Element Dictionary pages, and the error messages which will be received if edit messages are not done properly.



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### APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

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DED NO. 3040

MEDS NETWORK NAME: ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE

NARRATIVE NAME: ELIGIBILITY APPROVAL DATE

AKA NAMES:

SOURCE: County LENGTH: 6

DEFINITION:

This is the date on which approval action was taken on a case by the welfare department. This date is used in the Medicare Buy-In process to determine the appropriate effective date of Buy-In for Medically Needy, QMB, and QDWI recipients.

VALUES:

Date in the format MMDDYY where MM is month DD is day and YY is year.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This date must be reported when a newly eligible QMB, QDWI or Medically Needy recipient is reported to MEDS. It is optional for all other eligibility reporting.

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REVISION NUMBER: 13

REVISION DATE: 10/02/95

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SECTION NO.: 50257      MANUAL LETTER NO.: 175

DATE: 11/18/96      24E-16

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### APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

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DED NO. 2005

**MEDS NETWORK NAME:** INS-ENTRY-MMY

**NARRATIVE NAME:** INS-ENTRY-DATE

**AKA NAMES:** Alien Date of Entry, Alien Date of Residence

**SOURCE:** County, SDX, Buy-In Unit **LENGTH:** 4

**DEFINITION:**

This field identifies the reported date of entry into the United States or the month and year of residence in the United States. This field may be provided by counties, the Buy-In Unit, or by the SDX file when the SDX file identifies a recipient as an alien and there is either an alien date of residence or a date of application present on the SDX file. This information is used for the Refugee Tracking System and for Buy-In.

**VALUES:**

Date in the format MMY where MM is month and YY is year.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

This field must be reported when the county reports a Refugee/Alien Indicator of 0, 1, 5, 7, 8 or 9 or an Aid Code of 01, 0A, 02, or 08 and the INS Entry Date is not already present on MEDS.

If the SDX file identifies a recipient as an alien (see REFUGEE/ALIEN) and there is an alien date of residence present on the SDX file, this field will contain that date. Note: If the SDX alien date of residence was input prior to 10-80, the SDX month would have defaulted to January. If the SDX alien date of residence is prior to April 1975, MEDS posts a 04-75 date in this field. If the SDX file identifies a recipient as an alien and there is no alien date of residence present on the SDX file, MEDS will post the SDX date of application (which is the most recent SDX application date) in this field.

If the Refugee/Alien information is reported erroneously for a recipient, the INS Entry Date is removed by MEDS when the County requests deletion of the Refugee/Alien Indicator.

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REVISION NUMBER: 13

REVISION DATE: 9/23/96

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SECTION NO.: 50257

MANUAL LETTER NO.: 175

DATE: 11/18/96 24E-17

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### APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

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DED NO. 2009

MEDS NETWORK NAME: REFUGEE/ALIEN

NARRATIVE NAME: Refugee/Alien Indicator

AKA NAMES: SDX Alien Status, Alien Indicator, INDOCD, Alien Status Code

SOURCE: County, SDX, Buy-In Unit

LENGTH: 1

#### DEFINITION:

This code indicates whether the individual is a refugee or in a special alien status category. The information is used for the Refugee Tracking System and Buy-In.

#### COUNTY INPUT VALUES:

- 0 Other Alien
- 1 Indochinese Refugee
- 5 Citizen Children Born to Refugee Parents
- 7 Other Refugee
- 8 Cuban/Haitian Refugee
- 9 Aged Alien - Ineligible for Medicare and not a Refugee

#### SDX INPUT VALUES:

- F Refugee status - Section 207 or 203(A)(7) of the I.N.A.
- G Parole status - Section 212(d) of the I.N.A.
- H Silva vs. Levi alien
- I Indochinese refugee (This is an obsolete code)
- J Deferred action status alien
- K Alien lawfully admitted to the U. S. for permanent residence
- L Asylum status - Section 208 of the I.N.A.
- M Residents of the Northern Mariana Islands
- P Pre-January 01, 1972 alien (presumed lawfully admitted for permanent residence)
- R Lawful temporary resident - status granted as a result of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- S Lawful permanent resident - status granted as a result of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- T Alien granted voluntary departure
- W Alien granted stay of deportation
- X Cuban/Haitian entrant
- Y Legalized agriculture worker pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- Z Alien on whose behalf an immediate relative petition has been approved

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REVISION NUMBER: 13

REVISION DATE: 10/02/95

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SECTION NO.: 50257

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### APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

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DED NO. 2009

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The values 1, 5, 7, and 8 are to be used by counties to identify all refugees so that DHS can obtain 100 percent federal reimbursement for their expenses under the Medi-Cal program and DSS can obtain 100 percent federal reimbursement for Refugee Cash Assistance and funding for Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance.

The value 9 is used to identify aliens who are not refugees and are over 65 but not yet eligible for Medicare because they have not met the five-year residency requirement. This value may be reported when the recipient reaches age 64 years and 9 months to suppress the potential Medicare Buy-In alert message issued by MEDS renewal. The 9 may be reported either by counties or by the Buy-In Unit. The 9 will not overlay a 1, 7, or 8 or an SDX value since refugee information is the more critical information.

The value 0 (zero) was added at county request to identify aliens who do not fall into any of the other categories. The 0 will not overlay any other value on MEDS.

The value 5 is to be used by counties to identify children who are born in the United States of refugee parents. They are citizens, but the Office of Refugee Resettlement considers them refugees for both time-eligibility and for determining federal funding allocations for Refugee Employment Services and Targeted Assistance. Refugee Citizen Children are considered Refugees until they reach the age of 21 or until the date their parents become citizens.

The SDX values are those reported for SSI/SSP recipients via the SDX update files.

If Refugee/Alien information is reported erroneously for a recipient, it is removed by following the standard MEDS convention for deleting incorrect data; i.e., entry of an \*(asterisk) for online and the data element followed by an equal sign and a comma (2009=,) for Batch. Deletion of the Refugee/Alien Indicator will also delete the INS Entry Date from MEDS.

When a Refugee/Alien Indicator of 0, 1, 5, 7, 8, or 9 is reported, the INS Entry Date must also be reported if it is not already present on MEDS.

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REVISION NUMBER: 13

REVISION DATE: 9/26/96

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<b>EDITS:</b>	<b>ERROR MESSAGE:</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<b><u>ONLINE</u></b>	
REFUGEE/ALIEN IND = '9', AGE<64 YEARS 8 MONTH	385 REFUGEE/ALIEN VALUE INAPPRO- PRIATE FOR UNDER 64 YEARS 9 MONTHS	REJECT TRANS
INS-ENTRY-DATE<BIRTHDATE	386 INS-ENTRY-MMYX CANNOT BE PRIOR TO BIRTHDATE	REJECT TRANS
INS-ENTRY-DATE>CURRENT DATE	315 INS-ENTRY-MMYX MAY NOT BE A FUTURE DATE	REJECT TRANS
REFUGEE/ALIEN IND='1', '7', '8', '9' NO INS-ENTRY-DATE ON MEDS OR TRANS	314 INS-ENTRY-MMYX DATE REQUIRED WHEN REFUGEE/ALIEN ENTERED	REJECT TRANS
INS-ENTRY DATE>SPACES NO REFUGEE/ALIEN IND ON MEDS OR TRANS	317 REFUGEE/ALIEN REQUIRED WHEN INS-ENTRY-MMYX ENTERED	REJECT TRANS
ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE > CURRENT DATE	401 ELIG-APPROVAL-DATE CANNOT BE GREATER THAN CURRENT DATE	REJECT TRANS
	<b><u>BATCH TRANS</u></b>	
INS-ENTRY-DATE GREATER THAN CURRENT DATE	1616 INS-ENTRY-MMYX MAY NOT BE A FUTURE DATE ACTION	MEDS INS ENTRY DATE IS NOT CHANGED
INS-ENTRY-DATE LESS THAN BIRTHDATE	1091 INS-ENTRY-MMYX CANNOT BE PRIOR TO BIRTHDATE ACTION	MEDS INS ENTRY DATE IS NOT CHANGED
REFUGEE/ALIEN IND IS ALPHA	0004 INVALID CHARACTER WITHIN FIELD ACCEPT	MEDS REFUGEE ALIEN IND IS NOT CHANGED
REFUGEE/ALIEN IND = '9' AGE < 64 YEARS 9 MONTHS	1090 REFUGEE/ALIEN VALUE INAPPRO- PRIATE FOR UNDER 64 YEARS 9 MONTHS URGENT	MEDS REFUGEE ALIEN IND IS NOT CHANGED
MEDS AID CODE = '01', '02', OR '08' TRANS REFUGEE/ALIEN IND = '0' or '9'	2155 REFUGEE/ALIEN INFORMATION INCOMPLETE OR INCONSISTENT ACTION	MEDS REFUGEE ALIEN IND IS NOT CHANGED
	<b><u>RENEWAL</u></b>	
CHECK IF THERE IS A 01, 02 OR 08 AID CODE IN THE CURRENT OR HISTORY SEGMENTS WITHOUT A REFUGEE/ALIEN IND	8503 REFUGEE/ALIEN INFORMATION MISSING OR INCOMPLETE	ACTION

