

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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April 8, 1997



MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL LETTER NO.: 178

TO: All Holders of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual

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

Procedure Revision:

Article 24

Description:

Revisions to the Procedures for Refugee Medical Assistance due to clarifications in policy.

Filing Procedures:**Remove Pages:**

Article 24B
Pages 24B-3 through 24B-10

Article 24E
Pages 24E-18 and 24E-19

Insert Pages:

Article 24B
Page 24B-3 through 24B-9

Article 24E
Pages 24E-18 and 24E-19

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

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 must be determined 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 so that if a child is eligible for Medi-Cal but parents are not, place this child on Medi-Cal and parents on RMA/EMA.
- (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

FEDERAL BENEFITS: Otherwise eligible refugees who entered the country prior to August 22, 1996 are eligible for full-scope benefits under Medi-Cal. New otherwise eligible refugees who arrived on or after that date will be eligible for full-scope benefits for five years from their Date of Entry. After five years of residency, the State has the option of setting the benefit level through its state plan submittal to the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency.

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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

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

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

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

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

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
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 541-3220
Fax: (212) 541-3399

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

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

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. Transitional RMA has no share of cost.
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**.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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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MEDS NETWORK
USER MANUAL

SECTION NUMBER A2.4
PAGE: 267.1

APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

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:

- A Proven born in U. S., U. S. citizen
- B Alleged born in U. S., U. S. citizen
- C U. S. citizen born outside of the U. S., this includes naturalized citizens
- D Alleged U. S. citizen - pre-January 01, 1972
- E No citizenship or alien status development undertaken; case denied for reason(s) other than citizenship/alien status
- 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
- N Identity and citizenship of the individual verified by the Numident interface (code was previously A or B)
- P Pre-January 01, 1972 alien (presumed lawfully admitted for permanent residence)
- Q Alleged born in the U. S. - allegation corroborated by a U. S. place of birth shown on the on-line Numident
- 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
- U Unknown
- V System override applied following interface edit (obsolete code)

REVISION NUMBER: 13

REVISION DATE: 11/14/96

SECTION NO.: 50257

MANUAL LETTER NO.: 178

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MEDS NETWORK
USER MANUAL

SECTION NUMBER A2.4
PAGE: 267.2

APPENDIX II - DATA ELEMENT DICTIONARY

DED NO. 2009

- 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

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The values 1, 5, 7, and 8 are to be used by counties to identify time-eligible refugees, non-time eligible refugees and citizen children born to refugee parents so that DHS can obtain 100% federal reimbursement for their expenses under the Medi-Cal program, and DSS can obtain 100% federal reimbursement for Refugee Cash Assistance, funding for Refugee Employment Services, and Targeted Assistance.

The value 9 is used to identify aliens who are over 65 but are not eligible for Medicare because they have not met their 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, 5, 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 SDX values are those reported for SSI/SSP recipients via the SDX update files. SDX values will not overlay a 1, 5, 7, or 8.

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 1, 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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