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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

September 18, 2015

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 15-27

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: Ending of Accelerated Enrollment for Cases Where Medi-Cal Eligibility is Not Determined Within the 45-Day Timeframe

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is ending the Accelerated Enrollment (AE) batch processing for cases where Medi-Cal eligibility is not determined within the required 45-day timeframe.

Background

As stated in Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) 14-61, DHCS implemented a batch process to provide AE (aid code 8E) to applicants whose Medi-Cal eligibility was not determined within the required 45-day timeframe. This effort was a component of DHCS' mitigation strategy to address the large pending backlog of applications in 2014.

Ending of the 45-Day Batch AE Process

The authority provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to DHCS enabling DHCS to grant AE to applicants in pending status for 45 days, expired on July 31, 2015. Therefore, the week of September 7, 2015, was the last week that DHCS performed the 45-day batch process under existing CMS authority.

Note: Under the court order in the Rivera lawsuit, DHCS is still required to send a Notice of Inaction (NOI) to applicants whose application is in pending status for 45 days. The NOI provides such applicants information about their hearing rights.

Counties should continue to provide the DHCS batch team with “exclusion” lists as follows:

1. Exclusion List – These individuals will not receive a Rivera NOI and should be excluded from any future AE batch should the AE batch be resumed. Reasons may include:
 - a. Individual is active under another Client Index Number (CIN) and/or case.
 - b. County has denied or discontinued the individual in Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS), a Notice of Action was issued but the individual remains “Pending” or “Active” in California Health Eligibility Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS).
 - c. Individual is “Pending” or “Active” in CalHEERS with a different case, social security number and/or CIN, or is active in SAWS with a pseudo number.
 - d. Individual is an inactive member of the case (not applying, not in the home, not requesting aid, etc.) but is “Pending” in CalHEERS.
2. Rivera NOI Responses – Each week, counties are asked to review the weekly results file and for each record flagged as “Send_NOI” = “Y” to indicate whether a Rivera mailer is needed.
3. Western Center of Law and Poverty Demand Letter (WCLP DL) – Individuals who should receive a Rivera NOI and who should be excluded from any future AE batch should the AE batch be resumed.

DHCS, upon request of CMS, will be monitoring the volume of applications in pending status for more than 45 days, and will be sharing this data with the counties in the weekly files provided by DHCS. It is critical that counties strive to meet the 45-day application processing timeframe as required by state and federal law as this will assist to ensure the 45-day batch process does not have to be restarted and to minimize the volume of NOIs that need to be sent pursuant to the court order in the Rivera lawsuit.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Yingjia Huang at (916) 327-6690 or email at yingjia.huang@dhcs.ca.gov. We are appreciative of the counties’ cooperation and assistance in this effort.

Original Signed By:

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Medi-Cal Eligibility Division