State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

November 28, 2006

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS   Letter No.: 06-37
               ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
               ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
               ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
               ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
               ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: NEW TEMPORARY BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARD PROCESS

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the new temporary Benefits Identification Card (BIC) process.

Senate Bill (SB) 25 (Statutes of 2003, Chapter 907) required the removal of the Social Security Number (SSN) from the Medi-Cal BICs and prohibits the use of the SSN in certain situations and on certain documents.

Assembly Bill (AB) 3029 (Statutes of 2004, Chapter 584) prohibits the use of the SSN when billing Medi-Cal.

As a part of the expanded BIC-Identification (ID) number project, in November 2005 the Medi-Cal paper card was changed to display the new 14-digit BIC ID when the beneficiary was already known to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) or the client index number (CIN) was entered on the transaction. For new beneficiaries without CINs, the ten-digit MEDS-ID (SSN or pseudo-id plus check digit), is currently printed. Because AB 3029 prohibits the use of SSNs, the paper card process is being changed to display only the BIC-ID. And, since in most cases providers will need the BIC-ID when billing Medi-Cal, the beneficiary must have either a plastic or paper BIC containing the BIC-ID to receive services.

In order to support the new claiming rules, the temporary (a.k.a. paper) BIC process will change. The planned implementation date is December 27, 2006 (January 2007 month of eligibility). Research shows that only about 15 percent of the immediate need and paper card request transactions actually result in a paper card being printed. This could be because the beneficiary does not need a temporary card, or because the counties do not have card print capability (printers defined to the MEDS online region).

The current paper card image is still using the pre-1995 MC-301 (sticky label) format. The new paper card image (see enclosed example) will contain the same information as the plastic BIC. To make it easier for counties to print paper cards, we are adding a new option that will display the card image on the MEDS screen, which can then be screen printed. This will eliminate the need for the counties to define actual printers to the MEDS online region. Using a printer defined to MEDS will still be a valid option and will also print the new paper card image.

A BIC-ID is only generated when the MEDS transaction being entered indicates a card is being requested. Using the immediate need transaction (EW15) to report eligibility only, (currently done by entering the value "LOGS" as the printer location), will not generate a BIC-ID. Because of the BIC-ID requirement for provider claiming (providers will be required to bill using the BIC-ID instead of the SSN), a new method of generating a temporary BIC is being developed.

Card request transactions (EW15, EW45, EW50 and EW55) will be modified to have an option to return a screen image of the new temporary BIC. This card image can be screen-printed on any local county printer connected to the worker's workstation. The resulting paper card will contain the BIC-ID required for subsequent claims submission and will cause the MEDS to be updated with the card issue date.

Since the CIN is an integral part of the BIC-ID, the card request transactions will require that a CIN be entered for any beneficiary not known to the MEDS system. This edit will apply to the EW15 and EW50 transactions. The EW45 and EW55 are card replacement transactions, where the beneficiary must already be known to MEDS, and the CIN will be obtained from the existing MEDS record.

In addition to the ability to request a screen print card image by entering the new value "SCRN", the use of printer location "LOGS" is being discontinued and will be replaced by the new value "ELIG". Full details of the new temporary BIC request procedures will be sent out via the MEDS 60-day notice for screen changes.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Ms. Marlene King at (916) 552-9512 or e-mail mking1@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Maria Enriquez, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Original Signed By

Enclosure

Old paper card image, scheduled to end Dec. 27, 2006:

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                                       **********************
                                       **********************
                                       **********************
*****************************************  **********************
*    FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY    *  **********************
* PROVIDER:  PLEASE VERIFY ELIGIBILITY *  **********************
*****************************************  **********************
                                       **********************
                                       **********************
ID NO. BICIDNUMBERXXX                   **********************
                                       **********************
FIRSTNAME M LASTNAME                    **********************
                                       **********************
M    MM/DD/YYYY    ISSUE DATE: MM/DD/YY  **********************
                   GOOD THRU : MM/DD/YY  **********************
                                       **********************
          $ABCPRTRYYDDDHHMMSS            **********************
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New paper card image, scheduled to start Dec. 27, 2006:

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********************************************************************************
*                                                                            *
*                         STATE OF CALIFORNIA                                 *
*                                                                            *
*              TEMPORARY BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARD                        *
*                                                                            *
*       =======================================================              *
*       ===       FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY       ===                 *
*       ===       PROVIDER:  PLEASE VERIFY ELIGIBILITY    ===                 *
*       =======================================================              *
*                                                                            *
*   ID NO.  BICIDNUMBERXXX                    ISSUE DATE: MM/DD/YYYY          *
*                                             GOOD THRU : MM/DD/YYYY          *
*   FIRSTNAME I LASTNAME                                                      *
*                                                                            *
*   F    MM/DD/YYYY                                                          *
*                                                                            *
*                                                                            *
*   SIGNATURE _____        *
*                                                                            *
*              TERMVTAMCICSTRANYYYYMMDDHHMMSSDDDOPRXXXXXDISWRKR              *
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F   = gender (M or F); MM/DD/YYYY = birthdate
The bottom line is system info which identifies the source of the card
request.