

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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December 16, 1992

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 92-82

SUBJECT: PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY TASK FORCE

As you were informed via the Electronic Mail Message (E-Mail) sent October 2, 1992, the recent passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 501 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to implement the federal Medicaid option of Presumptive Eligibility (PE). This program allows specified providers throughout the State to provide their low-income, pregnant patients with immediate, temporary Medi-Cal coverage for prenatal care. These patients then must apply formally for Medi-Cal at the county welfare department within a specified period of time.

As we stated in the E-Mail and discussed at recent County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) meetings, the Department has begun the preliminary planning process to determine the most efficient and effective method of implementing PE throughout the State, as soon as possible, and with the least impact to the counties. The proposed start-up date is slated for July 1, 1993. During the next few months, you will be hearing more from the Department on this planning process and the program details. However, at this point, the Department is establishing a PE Implementation Task Force.

This Task Force will be charged with identifying the various steps needed to implement PE, researching and resolving any issues, and developing the recommended process to ensure PE is initiated as smoothly as possible. The team will be made up of experts from DHS (e.g., Payment Systems, Benefits, Data Systems, and others) as well as the Department of Social Services (AFDC and SAWS). Also, we wish to invite interested county representatives to join as members of this Task Force. County participation and input will enhance our effectiveness, especially in the development of procedures, forms and the ~~overall PE implementation plan.~~ Considering the size of the Task Force to date through State participation alone, the Department requests that each CWDA region nominate one representative to be appointed to the PE Task Force. These five participants will represent their region's input and concerns at the Task Force meetings and can share with the rest of their region the ongoing progress of the group.

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We ask that each regional chairperson please contact Lisa Reagan at (916) 657-3719 by January 31, 1993, with the name, address and phone number of their region's nominee. We will continue to inform all counties of any new PE developments and of our progress in planning for implementation. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Reagan at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch