DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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October 31, 1996



TO: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 96-60

All County Administrative Officers

All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS) HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS) MODEL-NURSING FACILITY WAIVERS

Ref: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) Numbers 87-60, 91-65, 95-10, 95-57

The purpose of this letter is to provide more information about Medi-Cal eligibility for persons eligible for the Medi-Cal home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers operated and administered by the DDS, i.e., the DDS Waiver, and the Model Waiver which is operated and administered by the DHS through the In Home Operations (IHO) Section.

Model-NF Waiver Criteria and Process

Changes have been made to the Model Waiver concerning eligibility criteria and expansion of available services. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment provision (as described in ACWDL 95-57) also allows expanded services for children. These two provisions have increased referrals for in-home services for both children and adults.

A. Criteria

- The applicant no longer needs to be institutionalized prior to enrollment in the waiver.
- The applicant does not need to be eligible for or receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.
- Applicants must still meet certain medical requirements for waiver eligibility as determined by IHO.
- The requirement under the Model Waiver that an individual may not have a share of cost (SOC) based on his/her own income has been deleted.

• The applicant no longer needs to be eligible on the basis of disability although there must be Medi-Cal eligibility on a different basis, such as being a child under age 21. Although a disability determination is no longer required, the county may need to do a determination if it would be to the applicant's advantage or if it is needed for linkage purposes.

Because of these changes, counties may be requested to determine eligibility using the Model Waiver criteria for persons who are living at home but not receiving Medi-Cal, or who may be currently receiving Medi-Cal with a SOC as well as those who are currently institutionalized, receiving SSI and planning to return home. Spousal Impoverishment rules now apply as they already do for those applying for the DDS Waiver. Persons who are only eligible for restricted or limited benefits or who are in a state-only aid code such as 53 are not eligible for the Model Waiver.

B. Potential Screening Form

Since Model Waiver applicants may have various living circumstances, e.g., he/she may be institutionalized, may be receiving SSI payments while institutionalized, or have Medi-Cal Only with a SOC, IHO may initially refer the applicant to the county via a multi-use Potential Waiver Screening Form (a draft copy is enclosed) for a "preliminary" eligibility determination before IHO may make a final medical determination and before the county can make a final eligibility determination. When used for a preliminary determination, counties should complete the form, return it to IHO, but NOT report the applicant to Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System until both IHO and the county have made their final determinations. Note: This form may also be used by IHO for other waiver applicants who do not require special eligibility determinations as a means to request that the county complete a Medi-Cal eligibility determination.

C. Notice

In some situations, IHO will determine medical eligibility prior to any referral to the county and IHO will send a copy of the enclosed Model Waiver Medical Eligibility Notice requesting the applicant to contact the county. The effective date of the waiver will be no earlier than three months prior to the application and will be negotiated between the county and the IHO eligibility liaisons.

DDS Waiver Criteria and Process

Counties will receive referrals to the DDS Waiver from their local regional center. Applicants for this waiver may be living at home or in the community. More information about this waiver is described in ACWDL 95-10. Counties should use the date of the receipt of the DDS Waiver Referral Form or the date of discharge if the applicant is currently institutionalized when establishing eligibility. A draft copy of this revised form is enclosed for your information as well as a list of the regional centers. The regional center should not be referring persons who are currently receiving SSI based Medi-Cal or zero SOC Medi-Cal-Only. Questions from family members concerned about a possible change in benefits should be referred to the regional center. It may be beneficial for your county designated waiver liaison to establish a contact at your local regional center.

Disability Determination

A disability determination is required for all waiver applicants if they have no other linkage or if there would be an advantage if the applicant were disabled, e.g. income deductions available only to the disabled. This determination of disability may be advantageous in the future when the child becomes an adult.

Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU)

Persons in the DDS and Model Waivers are in their own MFBU. Spousal Impoverishment rules apply. The maintenance need of the waiver person is \$600. If there are multiple persons in the same household applying for these waivers, each person is in his/her own MFBU. If other family members are applying for or are receiving regular Medi-Cal, the Model or DDS waiver person should be treated similar to public assistance (PA) persons, e.g., they are not in the MFBU with other family members, however, they may be used to link other family members. This is a change to the extent counties may have been previously informed to treat these persons as ineligible members of the MFBU when other family members requested regular Medi-Cal.

Aid Codes, Notices of Action (NOA) and Status Reporting

There are no aid codes specifically identifying individuals in waivers at this time. If the newly enrolled waiver person was receiving Medi-Cal prior to leaving the institution or had a SOC, a change in aid code may be required, (for example, from a long-term care (LTC) aid code to a non-LTC aid code.)

We are enclosing a copy of the IHO notice which will be sent to the Model Waiver applicant upon confirmation of the medical eligibility. There are no other special NOAs for waiver applicants at the present time. Counties should use the regular NOAs but may wish to add some special notations, if possible.

Since the income and property of the parent or spouse is not used to determine eligibility for either the Model or the DDS waivers, the status report only needs to contain information about the waiver beneficiary. Counties should advise the parents and spouses of waiver beneficiaries of the "limited" reporting requirement. Although the face to face and status reporting is still required, we are considering allowing counties to waive these requirements entirely for these two types of waiver beneficiaries in the future.

Returning to Institutional Status

Should the waiver beneficiary return <u>permanently</u> to an institution (long-term care status), his/her waiver coverage will terminate. Waiver coverage may continue if the beneficiary is only temporarily institutionalized. Counties may contact the eligibility liaisons at IHO for Model Waiver beneficiaries or their local regional center Medicaid waiver coordinators for DDS waiver beneficiaries if there are questions about the length of time the beneficiary will be absent from the home. We are enclosing an update of these contacts.

Procedures

Counties may expect an update of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual 19D early next year. These procedures will provide more information about the above waivers as well as other Medi-Cal waivers. These waivers follow regular Medi-Cal income and resource determinations. These are the:

- 1 In-Home Medical Care Waiver
- 2. Nursing Facility Waiver
- 3. Acquire Immune Deficiency Syndrome Waiver
- 4. Multipurpose Senior Services Program Waiver

If you have any eligibility questions, please contact Margie Buzdas at (916) 657-0726. For IHO questions, please contact the eligibility liaisons at (916) 324-1020.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY GLENDA ARELLANO for

Frank S. Martucci, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

1801 7th Street P.O. Box 942732 Sacramento, CA 94234-7320 (916)



[]		e.
[]		
Dear		·		
MODEL WAIVE Applicant: Social Security Nu Date of Birth: Address: Telephone:		GIBILITY NOTICE		
This notice medically eligible	is to confirm that for Model Waiver	the above-named indiv Services.	idual has been deter	rmined
eligibility, or be re	determined eligible	dividual make an appli e for Medi-Cal as a me the County Welfare I	ember of his/her ow	l program n Medi-Cal
Please conta	act	in		County
atapplication.	_, to make an app	ointment to complete t	he Medi-Cal eligibi	lity
		Sincerely	,	
		(I II		
001		(in-riome	Operations Represent	ative)
(Medi-Cal Mode	el Waiver Services R	epresentative)		
	(County)	,		
Note to County:	Please send a copyaddress noted abo	y of the Medi-Cal MWP	Informing Notice 007	7 to the
DHS Medi-Cal MWP Letter	1			

POTENTIAL WAIVER SCREENING FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: This form must be filled out by both the referring state agency and the county Department of Social Services/Welfare.

REFERRAL AGENCY - Please complete this portion and forward to the appropriate County Contact Person. If the applicant has already been confirmed for the medical portion of the Model Waiver, please send a copy of the DHS Medi-Cal MWP Letter 1.			
APPLICANT'S NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
SSN:		DOB:	
PHONE: Living Arrangement	WA	IVER TYPE	
Please determine elig already discharged from an	ibility based or institution).	the current community/ ho	
STATE AGENCY CON'	TACT /ADDR	ESS/PHONE	
INSTRUCTIONS; COUN state agency indicated about the communition received from	TY WELFARI ove as soon as the applicant	E DEPARTMENT - Please of possible. Completion of the or his/her representative at made, please also send	his form is based only on
The applicant does property/assets.	of cost (SOC)	the Medi-Cal or continues to). e Medi-Cal eligible upon reto only for the Model Waiver Pr	urning home due to excess
*NOTE: Eligibility for Modincome regardless of the produles apply).	del Waiver appleperty and inco	licants is based only on the apme of the parent or spouse (S	oplicant's property and Spousal Impoverishment
COUNTY CONTACT	ADDRESS	PHONE	DATE

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES WAIVER REFERRAL FORM

determination. The determination or resources ever rules apply if appropriat	elow has been referred by this regional center which contracts with clopmental Services (DDS) and requests a Medi-Cal eligibility ermination should not take into consideration parental or spousal if the individual lives at home; however, spousal impoverishment as if the applicant were institutionalized. See Section 19D of the
our mile inmit 1 100	cedures Manual. Note: If no responsible relative is available or f of the applicant, the regional center may apply on his/her behalf.
Applicant's Name:	
Applicant's Address:	
SSN:	DOB:
Telephone:	
Please base the eligibility community):	determination on the following living arrangement (e.g., home,
Date of Discharge (if curr	ently institutionalized):
This is to certify that the in intermediate care facility f and Safety Code.	ndividual named above has met the admission criteria for an for the developmentally disabled as defined in the California Health
Signature	
Title	
Regional Center and nam	ne of Contact Person:
Regional Center Address:	
Telephone:	

JUNE 1996 CALIFO	RNIA REGIONAL CENTERS	
REGIONAL CENTER	DIRECTOR	COUNTIES SERVE
ALTA CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTER 2031 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95825	James F. Huyck, Director (916) 924-0400 FAX: (916) 929-1036	Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba
CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL CENTER 5168 North Blythe Avenue, Ste. 101 Fresno, CA 93722	David Riester, Director (209) 276-4300 FAX: (209) 276-4360	Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare
EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER 3845 Selig Place *P.O. Box 31909 Los Angeles, CA 90031-0909	Gloria Wong, Director (213) 224-4700 FAX: (213) 221-9631	Alhambra, East Los Angeles, Northeast, Whittier
FAR NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER 1900 Churn Creek Road, Suite 319 *P.O. Box 492418 (96049-2418) Redding, CA 96002	Ken Brynjolffson, Ph.D., Act. (916) 222-4791 FAX: (916) 222-8908 Dir FAX: (916) 222-6063	Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity
FRANK D. LANTERMAN REGIONAL CENTER 3440 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 400 Los Angeles, CA 90010	Diane Campbell Anand, MPH Director (213) 383-1300 FAX: (213) 383-6526	Central, Glendale, Hollywood Wilshire, Pasadena
GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER 20 Howard Street, Third Floor San Francisco, CA 94105-1848	J. F. Gaillard, Director (415) 546-9222 FAX: (415) 546-9203	Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo
HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER Del Amo Business Plaza 21231 Hawthorne Blvd. (90503) P.O. Box 2930 Forrance, CA 90509	Patricia Del Monico, Director (310) 540-1711 FAX: (310) 540-9538	Bellflower, Harbor, Long Beach, Torrance
NLAND REGIONAL CENTER 020 Cooley Drive (Colton 92324) P.O. Box 6127 an Bernardino, CA 92412-6127	Verlin Woolley, Director (909) 370-0902 FAX: (909) 370-3671	Riverside, San Bernardino
ERN REGIONAL CENTER 200 North Sillect Avenue akersfield, CA 93308	Michal C. Clark, Ph.D. Director (805) 327-8531 FAX: (805) 324-5060	Inyo, Kern, Mono
ORTH BAY REGIONAL CENTER DEXECUTIVE COURT, Suite A Tapa, CA 94558	Nancy Gardner, Director (707) 256-1100 FAX: (707) 256-1112	Napa, Solano, Sonoma
ORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER 5400 Sherman Way, Suite 300 an Nuys, CA 91406	William C. Donovan, Ph.D. Director (818) 778-1900 FAX: (818) 756-6140 (Temporary)	East Valley, San Fernando, West Valley, Antelope Valley

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SAN ANDREAS REGIONAL CENTER 300 Orchard City Drive, Suite 170 Campbell, CA 95008 *P.O. Box 50002 San Jose, CA 95150-0002	Santi Rogers, Director (408) 374-9960 FAX: (408) 376-0586	Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
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ALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER OUTPER	Richard W. Jacobs, Director (209) 473-0951 FAX: (209) 473-0256	Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne
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