

Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG) Letter #615 Addendum B

January 2, 2008

Subject COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) EXPANSION AND REVISED ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Effective Date January 1, 2008

Reference County Board Letter 10/24/2007 (2)

Purpose The purpose of this addendum to MPG Letter #615 is to inform staff of a change in the Medical Hardship Waiver process.

Background to Hardship Waivers An expansion to the CMS Program was approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on 10/24/07. As a result, effective December 1, 2007, CMS Program benefits are now certified under CMS and CMS Expansion. Instructions regarding these changes were provided to staff in MPG Letter #615.

When an applicant's monthly net countable income exceeds 165% FPL, the applicant shall be denied CMS. If excess income is the only reason for denial, the worker shall provide the applicant with a CMS Hardship Waiver application packet. The applicant may submit the completed packet to the CMS Hardship Evaluation Unit to request a waiver for CMS eligibility. If the Financial Hardship is approved, the applicant is eligible for CMS.

If the Financial Hardship Waiver is denied, the applicant is not eligible to CMS and may apply for a Medical Hardship Waiver by submitting a completed Medical Need Statement form (CMS-88) to the CMS Hardship Evaluation Unit.

Changes to the Medical Hardship Waiver Process The CMS Medical Need Statement form (CMS-88) shall no longer be sent to the CMS Administrative Services Organization (ASO). The CMS-88 shall now be sent to Health Care Policy Administration (HCPA) – Attn: Medical Hardship Waiver at Mail Stop O-557A. HCPA will record the CMS-88 as received, and forward the CMS-88 to the ASO for medical need evaluation.

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Automation Impact

No impact.

Quality Assurance Impact

Quality Assurance will hold staff harmless during the month of implementation (January 2008). Effective 2/1/08 Quality Assurance will cite the following:

- Failure to send CMS Medical Need Statement (CMS-88) to Health Care Policy Administration (HCPA) Attn: Medical Hardship Waiver at MS O-557A will result in the citation of “incorrect” to the case.

Any errors cited for January 2008 must be corrected in a timely manner. Effective 2/1/08 and ongoing, Quality Assurance will cite with the appropriate error any case that does not meet the requirements of this letter.

Appeals Impact

No impact.

Summary of Changes

The table below shows the changes made to the Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG).

Article/Section	Changes
Article A, Section 13	CMS Medical Hardship Waivers

Contents

This publication contains the following topics:

Action	Pages
Remove	Article A, Section 13, Appendix B-3
Replace	Article A, Section 13, Appendix B-3

Important Note

The MPG is available in its entirety on the County Intranet by accessing <http://intranet/manuals/mpg/index.html>. The MPG revisions listed in this letter will be entered into the Intranet MPG at the next update.

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Managers Approval

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