Medi-Cal Program Guide Letter #619

October 25, 2007

Subject — **Change in the Definition of a Married Minor Child Living in the Home and Modified Sneede Procedures**

Effective Date — Upon receipt

Reference — ACWDLs 98-11, 98-17, and 98-23
MEPM Letter 214
MPG Letter #405 and 411

Purpose — The purpose of this letter is to inform staff of a modified budget methodology that must be used when determining financial responsibility in compliance with the Sneede v. Kizer lawsuit. The change in definition of a married minor child living in the home with his/her parents requires a modification of the Sneede budget rules. This clarification is being issued now due to the ability of CalWIN to support automated budgets for this case situation in compliance with the Sneede v. Kizer lawsuit.

Background — MPG Letter #405 introduced the changed definition of a married minor child who is living in the home. Under this definition, a married minor child living in the home with his/her parents is considered a child. The married minor child's parents are considered to be financially responsible according to Medi-Cal rules.

Modified Sneede — Sneede prohibits inappropriate deeming. Sneede rules specify that a married couple be together in a mini-budget unit (MBU) (for example, the minor child and spouse). Sneede also specifies that a child without income stay in the MBU with the parent(s) if there is no stepparent. The minor's parent(s) and minor's spouse have financial responsibility. Avoid inappropriate deeming by disregarding any income/property in a Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU) with parents and a married minor except from the married minor child, the married minor child's parent(s) or married minor child's spouse. See example below.

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Example: Inappropriate Deeming Applies

Mary is an 18-year old pregnant married minor parent. She lives with her parents, her 16-year old sister, her spouse and his two children. Mary has $100 per month net nonexempt income, the two children of Mary's spouse are his separate children and Mary's sister has net nonexempt income of $50 per month. Her spouse works part-time (under 100 hours) and earns $500 income per month. The minor's parents work full time. The minor's mother earns $1,000 net nonexempt income per month and the father earns $1,500 net nonexempt income. The family is property eligible. Since Mary is not deprived, she must be eligible as a Medically Indigent person under 21 or under the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) programs. The parents are not eligible because they are not aged, blind, disabled, etc. Mary's spouse and children are evaluated under the Medically Needy program because of unemployed parent deprivation. The family pays no health insurance premiums. See the table below for MFBU compositions and eligibility.

	MFBU
Member	**Member's Status**
Mary	Member
Mary's parents	Ineligible
Mary's spouse	Ineligible
Spouse's separate children	Ineligible
Mary's sister	Ineligible
Mary's unborn	Member
Income and SOC	
Total net income	$3,150
MFBU size	8
MNIL	$1,692
SOC	$1,458

In this MFBU, the only eligible person is Mary. The only inappropriate deeming which affects Mary is the income from Mary's sister (a child with income). Rather than set up the usual MBU for all the various persons in this MFBU, workers should disregard any income/property from persons who are not responsible for the one eligible married minor person in this MFBU. In this case, Mary's sister is not responsible for Mary; therefore, her $50 will be disregarded. The remaining income will be compared to the regular Maintenance Need Income Level (MNIL) for the entire family including Mary's sister. If there is a share of cost (SOC), evaluate for the Income Disregard program, if applicable.

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Automation Impact

CalWIN is currently programmed to use the modified Sneede methodology when evaluating cases that include a married minor child.

Forms Impact

No impact.

Quality Assurance Impact

Effective with the November 2007 sample month, Quality Assurance will cite with the appropriate error any case that does not follow the requirements of this letter.

Summary of Change

The table below shows the changes that were made to the MPG material.

Article	Change
Article 5, Section 14	Added clarification for married minor living in the home situations.

Filing Instructions

The table below shows how to file the MPG material.

Action	Pages
Remove	Article 5-14-9 through 5-14-12
Replace	Article 5-14-9 through 5-14-17

Important Notice

The MPG is available in its entirety on the County Intranet by accessing http://hhsa_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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Manager Approval

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