### Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG) Letter #700

August 20, 2010

Subject

PRE-RELEASE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INMATES AND WARDS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS

**Effective** 

Upon release

Reference

ACWDL 09-16, 10-11

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this letter is to inform staff of an agreement between the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to create a process to complete and submit Medi-Cal applications for inmates or wards of CDCR prior to their release and an agreement between the County Sheriff's department and HHSA to complete pre-release applications for severely disabled or incapacitated inmates.

#### Background

In January 2008, DHCS and CDCR agreed to facilitate the completion and submission of Medi-Cal applications for inmates and wards of CDCR prior to their release. The intent of this agreement is to allow inmates timely access to Medi-Cal benefits upon their release if they are eligible.

Severely disabled inmates residing in San Diego County jails cannot be released from custody until they can be placed in a skilled nursing facility. Many of these inmates cannot be placed without Medi-Cal eligibility in place.

# Summary of Changes

#### The CDCR pre-release application process

This process does not change existing Medi-Cal regulations, rather provides a process by which CDCR inmates can provide completed Medi-Cal applications to the County prior to release.

#### **CDCR Benefits Workers will:**

- Identify inmates that are potentially eligible for Medi-Cal benefits upon release and refer inmates potentially eligible for Medi-Cal.
- Complete the application and serve as the Authorized

Representative for the inmate.

- Notify the County of the parole date and residence address and submit completed Medi-Cal applications and supporting documentation to ACCESS.
- Notify the County of changes to the parole date via ACCESS.
- For applicants under 21 years of age, notify the parent or guardian, if necessary, of their intention to seek Medi-Cal benefits.

#### Medi-Cal staff will:

- Acknowledge receipt of an application via a secured email to the designated CDCR staff within ten days of receipt of an application.
- Work with CDCR staff and when appropriate, with the ward's parent or guardian to complete the application.
- Expedite the application if the ward or inmate is scheduled for release in less than 45 days.
- Notify the designated CDCR Benefits Worker in writing, by means of the CDCR transmittal form, the outcome of the eligibility determination or if additional information is required.
- Notify CDCR at least ten days prior to the expected parole date if the Medi-Cal determination is not completed.
- Grant the case with the release date as the beginning date of aid.
- Provide a Temporary Paper Benefits Identification Card to enable the inmate or ward to access Medi-Cal benefits immediately upon release if the inmate or ward is Medi-Cal eligible.

#### The Sheriff's department pre-release application process

The County has agreed to provide an FRC liaison to assist the Sheriff's department in obtaining Medi-Cal for disabled or incapacitated inmates who have served their sentences but cannot be released from custody until they can place the inmate in a skilled nursing facility. Sheriff's Department representatives from the Central Jail, the Vista Detention Facility or the Las Colinas Detention Facility will complete the applications for these individuals.

The County has an agreement with the representatives from those three facilities only. The county has established a liaison for this process in each FRC with a detention facility in their service area.

### Automation Impact

The purpose of the CDCR pre-release application process is to allow timely access to Medi-Cal for inmates upon their release. The process assumes that workers will take applications and process them while the applicant is still incarcerated and grant with the release date as the beginning date of aid. However, CalWIN cannot grant cases with a beginning date of aid in a future month. When workers receive all

information necessary to evaluate the case for Medi-Cal, they must:

Step	Action		
3tep	Enter all relevant information in CalWIN.		
2			
2			1
institutional status			Then
		•	Continue to step 3
	_	ole for reasons n institutional	Authorize the failure in CalWIN and send all applicable notices and form MC 0025 to the CDCR representative.
3	Do not author	rize the approval	and onter a batch execution
4	Do not authorize the approval and enter a batch exception.  Generate a case alert to re-review on the release date.		
4	Generate a case alert to re-review on the release date.  Complete the send user alert as follows:		
	Field	Enter or Selec	t
	Sent to	'Case'	
	Case #	Case number	
	Due Date	Release date a	s noted on the cover letter.
	Category	Application Act	ivity
	Subject	CDCR	•
	Detail	Enter the Relea	ase Date XX/XX/XXXX
	Send User Alert		
		NZ MATTHEW  User  Case	
	Alert Details  Date: \$  05/17/2010   Due Date:  04/17/2011      Category:   Application Act      Subject		
5			he request date on the 'collect' from the application date to

	the release date.
6	Re-run EDBC and authorize the result.
7	Narrate all actions taken.

When CDCR reports a change in release date, workers must resolve the previous alert and enter a new case alert with the revised released date.

#### Forms Impact

MC 0025 - TRANSMITTAL TO CDCR BENEFIT SPECIALIST ON DETERMINATION OF A WARD'S/INMATE'S MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY

- has been uploaded to iWay and is available to order.

### Imaging Impact

Until the communication forms are loaded into CalWIN all communications with CDCR via form mc 0025 must be scanned into CalWIN using template HHSA16-140 Notice of Actions.

The cover letter from CDCR must be scanned into CalWIN using template HHSA16-140.

# Management Reports

In order to assist FRCs in tracking cases ready to grant pending release date, automation staff has created a report to track CDCR case alerts. The report will be made available once a month and list all pending cases with the CDCR case alert organized by FRC and release date. Intake group supervisors should use this list to track and take actions on the applications for individuals with release dates due in the month. The list will be uploaded to SharePoint monthly at the following location:

<u>CalWIN reporting/ Management Reports/ Medi-Cal Program Reports/</u>
CDCR Pre-Release Applications

### ACCESS Impact

ACCESS staff duties for these cases are similar to their duties for other mail-in applications with the following exceptions:

- The case must be logged in the CDCR Pre-Release Log.
- Choose 'CDCR Pre-release' from the application source dropdown bar on the Collect Applicant Information screen during the App/Reg process.
- Upon receipt of the application, workers must send a secure email to the CDCR representative indicating receipt of the application using the following language: 'Medi-Cal Pre-Release application received for (individual's prisoner number if available or name)'.

When CDCR notifies the County that the applicant's release date changed, ACCESS workers must:

- Narrate the information in case comments.
- Send a SharePoint to the FRC with the change information.

### Quality Assurance Impact

Effective with the September 2010 review month, Quality Assurance will cite with the appropriate error any case that does not follow the requirement of this letter.

# Summary of Change

The table below shows the changes made in the MPG.

Section	Summary of Change
Article 6, Section 2	Added a section with information about the CDCR pre-release application process.
	Added section with information about the Sheriff's department pre-release process.

### Manager Approval

Original signed by:

Janya Bowman, Assistant Deputy Director Health Care Policy Administration Strategic Planning and Operational Support Division

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### Article 6, Section 2 – Inmates of a Public Institution

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### 06.02.01 - Inmates Ineligible to Medi-Cal

# A. Background

Eligibility staff must consider both the facility and the individual's circumstances when making a Medi-Cal determination of eligibility for either a juvenile or an adult who is incarcerated or placed in any type of public institution. In making these determinations, staff shall follow the guidelines below as well as the chart in Appendix 6-2-A.

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### B. Individuals Not Eligible for Medi-Cal

The following individuals are **not** eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits:

1	An inmate in a prison or a county, city or tribal jail.
	Note: This includes inmates being held prior to arraignment, conviction, or sentencing. It does not include individuals who are out on bail or their own recognizance.
2	An individual who is incarcerated, but can leave prison or jail on work release or work furlough and must return at specific intervals.
3	Individuals released from prison or jail due to a medical emergency who would otherwise be incarcerated but for the medical emergency.
4	A minor in a juvenile detention center prior to disposition (judgment) due to a criminal activity of the minor.
5	A minor who is placed in a detention or correctional facility after detention, including a youth ranch, forestry camp, or home which is part of the criminal justice system.
6	A minor placed on juvenile intensive probation by a juvenile court with specific conditions of release, including residence in

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	a juvenile detention center.
7	A minor placed on probation by a juvenile court or on juvenile
	intensive probation to a secure treatment facility contracted
	with the juvenile detention center if the secure treatment facility
	is part of the criminal justice system.

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### C. Individuals Eligible to Medi-Cal if Otherwise Eligible

The following individuals are entitled to receive Medi-Cal benefits if otherwise eligible:

1	An individual who, after arrest but before booking, is escorted by police to a hospital for medical treatment and held under guard.
2	An individual in prison or jail who transfers temporarily (one to two months) to a halfway house or residential treatment facility prior to a formal probation release order.
3	An individual who is released from prison or jail, but who is on probation, parole, or release order with one of the following conditions:  • Home arrest,  • Work release,  • Community service,
	<ul><li>Outpatient treatment, or</li><li>Inpatient treatment.</li></ul>
	Inpatient treatment.
4	An individual released from prison or jail under a court probation order due to a medical emergency.
5	A minor held in a juvenile detention center for care, protection, or in the best interest of the child if:
	It is prior to disposition (judgment), and
	There is a specific plan for that minor that makes the stay at the detention center temporary (one to two months).
	This could include those juveniles awaiting placement but still physically present in juvenile hall.
6	A minor placed on probation or juvenile intensive probation by

secure treatment facili detention center, if the the criminal justice s become wards of the comedical residential facili rehabilitative services.  8 A minor placed on probate treatment in one of the form of the	tion or juvenile intensive probation to a y which contracts with the juvenile secure treatment facility is not part of ystem. This includes juveniles who burt and are placed in a 24-hour non-y, which provides counseling and other tion or juvenile intensive probation with ollowing as a condition of probation:
secure treatment facili detention center, if the the criminal justice s become wards of the comedical residential facili rehabilitative services.  8 A minor placed on probate treatment in one of the form of the	y which contracts with the juvenile secure treatment facility is not part of ystem. This includes juveniles who burt and are placed in a 24-hour non-y, which provides counseling and other tion or juvenile intensive probation with ollowing as a condition of probation:
<ul> <li>treatment in one of the f</li> <li>A psychiatric hospital</li> <li>A residential treatmer</li> <li>As an outpatient.</li> <li>Individuals with tubero</li> </ul>	ollowing as a condition of probation:
<ul> <li>health:</li> <li>A residential treatmer</li> <li>A skilled nursing facilities</li> <li>A county, city or tribal</li> </ul>	ulosis who are under an order of e following facilities to protect public

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D.
Eligibility
Related to
Competency
to Stand Trial

Penal Code	Description	Eligibility
1367	applies to individuals charged with a misdemeanor, but who are incompetent to stand trial.	During the evaluation period, the defendant is entitled to Medi-
	<ul> <li>provides that "A person cannot be tried or adjudged to punishment while that person is</li> </ul>	Cal benefits if otherwise eligible.
	mentally incompetent."	<ul> <li>If the result of the evaluation is that</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>If a judge finds reason to believe that a defendant may be incompetent to stand trial, he/she may order that the defendant be</li> </ul>	the individual is to be placed in a mental health facility for

	referred for 72-hour treatment and evaluation	treatment, he/she may be entitled to receive Medi-Cal benefits if otherwise eligible.
1370	<ul> <li>applies to individuals charged with a serious felony who are placed in a mental health facility because they were determined incompetent to stand trial.</li> <li>If an individual is still determined to be incompetent after the placement period, a Murphy Conservatorship may be established.</li> </ul>	An individual under a Murphy Conservatorship may be entitled to receive Medi-Cal benefits if otherwise eligible.
1372	Applies to defendants who have regained competency.      When a defendant returns to court with a certification that competence has been regained, the court shall determine whether the person is to be released on bail.	An individual who is released on bail is not a resident of a public institution, and therefore entitled to receive Medi-Cal benefits if otherwise eligible.  If not released on bail, the individual is likely to be held in a prison or jail prior to conviction or sentencing. In this situation, the individual would be a resident of a public institution and would not be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.

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### 06.02.02 - CDCR Pre-Release Application Process

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to facilitate the completion and submission of Medi-Cal applications for inmates and wards of CDCR prior to their release. The intent of this agreement is to allow eligible inmates timely access to Medi-Cal benefits upon their release.

San Diego County has one CDCR facility:

R.J. Donavan at Rock Mountain. 480 Alta Road San Diego, CA 92179

The County may receive referrals from other facilities in the state if the inmate plans to return to San Diego upon release.

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B. CDCR Benefits Worker Responsibilities

1 Identify wards and inmates that may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits upon parole

Submit a completed Medi-Cal application and provide supporting documents and a cover letter up to 180 days prior to parole to ACCESS. Documentation must include:

- A cover letter with the parole date of the ward or inmate and contact information for the CDCR representative.
- An AR form signed by or on behalf of the ward or inmate authorizing the CDCR Benefits Worker to represent the ward or the inmate with respect to determination of Medi-Cal eligibility.
- A complete application.
- Contact information for the ward's parent or guardian if applicable.
- Sufficient information to begin determining the ward or inmate's eligibility for Medi-Cal, including information necessary to establish disability if applicable.

The CDCR must submit the applications 90 days prior to parole for disabled individuals and no later than 45 days prior to parole for non-disabled individuals. CDCR will notify the County of updates to the release date via a cover letter sent to ACCESS.

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### C. ACCESS Responsibilities

1	Receive the application packet.
2	App/Reg the application as normal for mail-in applications except the applicant address must be the address of the CDCR representative completing the application and choose 'CDCR Pre-release' from the application source dropdown bar on the Collect Applicant Information screen. The CDCR representative address can be found on the AR form or the cover letter.
3	Image the cover letter into case file.
4	Forward the application to the appropriate FRC based on the ZIP code of the inmate's destination upon release.
5	Log the application in the CDCR application log.
6	Send confirmation of receipt of application to CDCR via secured email using the following language: 'Medi-Cal Pre-Release application received for (individual's prisoner number if available or name)'.
7	Receive updated release dates from CDCR and forward to appropriate workers.

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D. Worker Responsibilities

1			di-Cal. Expedite applications if the ward	
		or inmate is due for release in less than 45 days.		
2	2			
		If	Then	
		The application or	Notify CDCR via the transmittal form.	
		verifications are not	Normal verification timelines and NOA	
		complete,	rules apply. The CDCR	
			representative information can be	
			found on the AR form or the cover	
			letter.	
			If verifications are not received timely,	
			deny the case and inform CDCR of	
			the reason via the transmittal form.	
		The application	Notify the CDCR via the transmittal	
		cannot be completed	form MC 0025 10 days prior to the	
		prior to the release	expected release date (the release	
		date,	date can be found on the CDCR cover	
			letter to the application).	
		The ward or inmate is	Grant with the release date as the	
		eligible for Medi-Cal	beginning date of aid (see	
		other than	automation section below);	
		institutional status,		

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	Notify CDCR via the transmittal form MC0025; and
	Mail a temporary BIC card to the inmate upon release. The BIC must be mailed to the inmate at the inmate's residence after release or the inmate can make arrangements to pick up the card in the office.
If a ward under 21 not eligible to Med Cal and the parer has consented,	i-

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### E. Automation

The purpose of the CDCR pre-release application process is to allow timely access to Medi-Cal benefits to inmates upon their release. The process assumes that workers will take applications and process them while the applicant is still incarcerated and grant with the release date as the beginning date of aid. However, CalWIN cannot grant cases with a beginning date of aid in the future month. When workers receive all information necessary to evaluate the case for Medi-Cal, they must:

Step	Action				
1	Enter all relevant information in CalWIN.				
2	Run EDBC				
	If the applic	ant Then			
	Is eligible except for Continue to step 3. institutional status,				
		le for reasons institutional			
3	Do not authorize the approval and enter a batch exception.				
4	Generate a case alert to re-review on the release date. Complete the send user alert as follows:				
	Field	Enter or Select			
	Sent to	'Case'			

	Case #	Case number				
	Due Date	Release date as noted on the cover letter.				
	Category	Application Activity				
	Subject	CDCR				
	Detail	Release date xx/xx/xxxx				
	Send User Alert					
	Creefed By User ▶ KLOBERDA Sents	NZ MATTHEW Send Date: \$5/17/2010				
	Case Case ₹ ► D517201 Fing.  Alert Details  Date ► D5/17/2010 ■ Due Date   04/17/2011 ■  Category   Application Act ■  Subject ► CDCR					
	The state of the s	sse Defe 4/17/2011				
5		se date, change the request date on the 'collect all detail' screen from the application date to ate.				
6	Re-run EDBC	and authorize the result.				
When C	DCR reports a	change in release date, workers must resolve				

When CDCR reports a change in release date, workers must resolve the previous alert and enter a new case alert with the revised released date.

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# **06.02.03 - Sheriff's Department Pre-Release Application Process for Incapacitated Inmates**

### A. Background

The County has agreed to provide an FRC liaison to assist the Sheriff's department in obtaining Medi-Cal for disabled or incapacitated inmates who have served their sentences but cannot be released from custody until they can place the inmate in a skilled nursing facility. Sheriff's Department representatives from the Central Jail, the Vista Detention Facility or the Las Colinas Detention Facility will complete the applications for these individuals.

The County has an agreement with the representatives from those three facilities only. The County has established a liaison for this

County Policy

### B. Process for incapacitated inmates

Below is a the general process the County and the Sheriff's department have agreed to:

County Policy

Step	Action					
1	The Sheriff's Department will contact the FRC liaison					
	notifying them of the application.					
2	The FRC liaison will monitor and assist with the application					
	process as needed to assure that the agreed process					
0	occurs.	and the second control of the discourse of the second control of t				
3	The intake worker will accept and evaluate the application while the applicant is still incarcerated.					
	wrille the applicat	iii is siiii iiicaicerateu.				
	If	Then				
	The applicant	The worker must notify the Sheriff's				
	is found	department representative of the				
	otherwise	potential eligibility; and				
	eligible to	<ul> <li>The case will remain in pending status for a reasonable time period to allow for the potential transfer to</li> </ul>				
	Medi-Cal,					
		occur. The reasonable time is				
		determined by the FRC based on the circumstances of the case.				
	The applicant	The worker must deny the case based				
	is ineligible to	on the applicant's institutional status				
	Medi-Cal for	and the other applicable reasons.				
	reasons other					
	than					
	institutional					
	status,					
4	The Sheriff's d	enartment must pagotiate with a skilled				
-	The Sheriff's department must negotiate with a skilled nursing facility to allow the applicant admission prior to					
	granting of Medi-Cal with the understanding that the individual will be eligible upon release. The Sheriff's department will inform the worker the day the applicant was					
	released to the nursing facility.					
5	Upon notification of the release date, the worker will grant					
	the Medi-Cal case effective the date of admission to the					
	skilled nursing facility.					

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### APPENDIX A - INSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF AN INDIVIDUAL

					JUVENILES		(Includii	JNTARY ng Parolee/ ationer)
TYPE OF INSTITUTION	Pre- Booking	Sentenced 21-64	Sentenced 65 or Over	Under W&I 601, 300*	Sentenced W&I 602	Others Under 21	21-64	65 or Over
Public Non-medical Institution (Correctional)	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible
Public or Private General Medical Facility (non-IMD)	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Public or Private Mental Facility (IMD)	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Eligible to Age 22 in Specific Facilities	Ineligible	Eligible to Age 22 in Specific Facilities	Eligible	Eligible
Community Care Facility or Residential Treatment Center, or Board and Care Home (non-correctional)	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Public or Private Intermediate Care or Skilled Nursing Facility (non-IMD)	Eligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Ineligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
House Arrest	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible

#### NOTE:

- 1. Approval of an application of an inmate eligible above shall be contingent upon all other eligibility criteria being met.
- Person institutionalized prior to their 21st birthday is eligible until they reach their 22nd birthday
  as long as they remain continuously institutionalized and receive inpatient psychiatric care in an
  acute psychiatric hospital or a psychiatric health facility certified by Medi-Cal to provide inpatient
  hospital services.
- 3. Individuals released on bail or own recognizance (OR) are eligible for Medi-Cal.
- 4. Welfare and Institutions Code Number Explanations:
  - a. W&I 300 Person needs care due to mental or physical deprivation.
  - b. W&I 601 Uncontrollable Ward of Court.
  - c. W&I 602 Violation of law.
- 5. No one under sentence is eligible for Medi-Cal. However, under Penal Code Section 1367, if a person is incompetent to stand trial, he remains in a mental facility and is eligible for Medi-Cal.
- 6. If a Murphy Conservatorship is established, sentence is terminated and person is eligible for Medi-Cal.
- 7. If a person is under sentence but transferred to a residential treatment center or board and care home prior to release, he/she is eligible for Medi-Cal.
- 8. Fleeing felons and violators of probation and parole are eligible for Medi-Cal until they have been re-incarcerated.
- 9. Individuals under an order of detention because of TB are eligible for Medi-Cal unless they are booked and sentenced for a criminal offense.

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### **APPENDIX B – CDCR PRE-RELEASE TRANSMITTAL**

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Care Services

### TRANSMITTAL TO CDCR PUBLIC BENEFIT SPECIALIST ON DETERMINATION OF A WARD'S/INMATE'S MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY

Date:	CDCR Number:		
Benefits Information for:			
ELIGIBILITY PENDING (Note: The eligibility	y status information provided below is subject to		
change if all eligibility requirements are not met a	at the time the ward/inmate is released.		
This ward/inmate will be eligible to receive no-cost Medi-Cal benefits beginning on the following date:			
This ward/inmate will be eligible to re cost beginning on the following date:	ceive Medi-Cal benefits with a share-of-		
This ward/inmate will be eligible to re beginning on the following date:			
Due to a change of his or her release eligible to receive Medi-Cal on eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits on the	e date, this ward/inmate will not be ; instead he or she will be ne following date:		
ELIGIBILITY DENIED			
This ward's/inmate's application for Mass been denied. The reason for this de			
INFORMATION REQUEST (Please contact or concerns regarding the denial of eligibility)			
In order to determine the ward's/inma information:	ate's eligibility we need the following		
MC 0025 (3/10)			

MPG Letter #700 (8/10)