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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 90 LCM-47

Date: April 6, 1990

Division: Medical Assistance/
Income Maintenance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Transitional Medical Assistance Extensions

ATTACHMENTS: There are no attachments to this LCM.

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

The Family Support Act of 1988 (Welfare Reform) mandates that Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) cases closed on or after April 1, 1990 for the following reasons be given transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) extensions:

1. Due solely or partially to increased hours or income from employment; or
2. Due solely to loss of the \$30 1/3 or \$30 earned income disregard.

Currently, MA extensions under Social Services Law Section 366.4 and Department Regulation 360-3.3(c) must be authorized for certain public assistance (PA) case closings. ADC cases closed for increased hours or income from employment presently receive an MA extension of four months. ADC and HR cases closed for loss of the \$30 and 1/3 or \$30 earned income disregard currently receive an MA extension of nine months plus a possible additional six months. These cases should continue to be processed in this manner until the anticipated State legislation is enacted.

State legislation has been introduced to reflect the provisions of the federal Family Support Act. However, we cannot implement the TMA provisions until the State legislation is enacted into law. The MA provisions of the

Family Support Act are effective April 1, 1990 and it is anticipated that the State legislation will require social services districts to provide TMA back to April 1. Therefore, each social services district is strongly encouraged to maintain a list of MA cases opened from PA cases closed on or after April 1, 1990 for the above reasons. The unit responsible for compiling the list is the unit that authorizes MA extensions. This varies from district to district:

- If the PA unit authorizes the MA extension and then gives the MA case to the MA unit to maintain, then the PA unit shall compile the list and send it monthly to the MA unit.
- If the PA unit maintains the case until the end of the MA extension, the PA worker shall be responsible for maintaining the list.
- If the MA unit authorizes the MA extension, the MA worker shall maintain the list of MA extensions.

After legislation is enacted and regulations are filed, an Administrative Directive will be issued explaining what should be done with the cases on the list.

SYSTEMS IMPLICATIONS

Upstate

When opening a separate MA case to provide an MA extension for one of the reasons cited above, use of the correct reason code will be especially important. Cases which are to receive TMA extensions must have the correct MA Opening Reason Code for WMS to identify cases later for special processing which may be required by the legislation.

The following are the MA Reason Codes which should be used when opening an MA-Only case (Case Type 20) for TMA extensions:

- 088 Beginning of extension of MA eligibility after finding of ineligibility for ADC resulting from employment (see note below).
- 089 Beginning of extension of eligibility for MA after finding of ineligibility for PA resulting from loss of \$30 & 1/3 or \$30 disregard.

NOTE: Reason Code 088 will be available on WMS on April 9, 1990 for employment-related MA extensions. Until that time, Reason Code 090 may continue to be used for this purpose. After April 9, Reason Code 090 should only be used for support-related MA extensions.

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When establishing the MA case, the Authorization From Date should be entered equal to the beginning of the month of the Authorization To Date on the closed PA case. This will assure that in most situations, there will be no gap in MA coverage between the PA case and the MA case. In a small number of cases, it may be necessary to further adjust the MA Coverage From Date for one or more individuals on the MA case to ensure that there is never a gap in coverage.

New York City

Instructions for New York City will be issued under separate cover.

If there are MA-related questions, call your MA eligibility county representative at 1-800-342-4100, extension 3-7581, or in New York City (212) 587-4853. If there are PA-related questions, call 1-800-342-4100, extension 4-9107.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann A. Costantino
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance