




County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health

INFORMATION NOTICE 11-01

Date: January 18, 2011

To: Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Staff and Contract Agencies

From: Allan Rawland, MSW, ACSW, Director 

Subject: Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS)

Introduction MEDS stores vital and confidential client information such as Medi-Cal eligibility and demographics. Each month the Medi-Cal eligibility system documents whether a client is eligible for Medi-Cal, if the person receives full-scope Medi-Cal benefits, if the person is enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan, or if the person must meet a share-of-cost prior to receiving Medi-Cal covered services.

MEDS Agreement DBH has entered into a Medi-Cal Privacy and Security Agreement with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) regarding the access, use and disclosure of Medi-Cal Personally Identifiable Information (PII) obtained from MEDS. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) delegates the administration of the Specialty Mental Health program to DMH; therefore DHCS oversees the MEDS Agreement.

Access, Use and Disclosure The terms of the MEDS Agreement restrict access of MEDS to those county department employees needing to perform their official duties regarding the verification of Medi-Cal eligibility for DBH clients.

Privacy and security requirements of the MEDS Agreement prohibit DBH from the following activities:

- Accessing MEDS for Contract Agencies or its Fee-For-Service (FFS) Hospitals
- Sharing or disclosing Medi-Cal PII with Contract Agencies or FFS Hospitals

DBH Contract Agencies and FFS Hospitals Contract Providers and FFS Hospitals are responsible for verifying Medi-Cal eligibility yet are not eligible for MEDS access. As an alternative, Contract Providers and FFS Hospitals may contact DHCS directly at its Telephone Service Center (TSC) 1-800-541-5555 to inquire about other methods of verification.

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**DBH Contract
Agencies and
FFS Hospitals**
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Alternative methods of obtaining eligibility of clients from DHCS may include:

- Medi-Cal Internet eligibility verification applications
- Point of Service (POS) Network

Contract Providers and FFS Hospitals may choose to peruse the DHCS
Medi-Cal website for more information:

<http://www.medical.ca.gov/default.asp>

Questions

Questions regarding this Information Notice shall be directed to the DBH
Office of Compliance at (909) 382-3083.
