

## Information about Newborn Referral in Sonoma County

- ❑ The newborn referral program has been in existence since November 1998, however never actively used in our county. An existing state form was recently edited, substituting simpler language and local information.
- ❑ “Deemed eligible” infants are infants under the age of one year whose mothers had Medi-Cal coverage for the delivery and who lived with the mother in California during the birth month.
- ❑ A “deemed eligible” infant automatically qualifies for Medi-Cal *without* an application or any verification (things like birth certificates, social security numbers, proof of family income, etc.) at least until the first birthday. Even if mother loses her Medi-Cal, the infant is still covered for the first year.
- ❑ A simple way to add baby to the mother’s Medi-Cal is by submitting a **Newborn Referral Form. Fax to 565-5353.**
- ❑ The form will then be forwarded to the assigned worker who will add the newborn to mom’s case. This won’t happen instantaneously, but Social Services will attempt to do so within a week of receiving the form. If there is an emergency situation, the provider or parent should include a short note explaining that expedited services are needed.
- ❑ Providers may call the Master Index line (545-5292) to check baby’s status. Parents may call their assigned worker if they know the phone number or to Medi-Cal’s regular line (877-699-6868). They can also get the baby’s Medi-Cal ID number at that time for billing purposes.
- ❑ An infant can be referred to the County for “deemed eligibility” any time during the first year of life. The newborn referral form is intended to be used within 30 days from the month in which the baby is born.
- ❑ Remember newborn services are covered by the mother’s Medi-Cal during the month the baby is born and for the entire month following. Providers are able to bill for full-scope services provided during that time, even when mother has had a restricted card.
- ❑ **Important New Rule for Minor Consent Program:** Infants whose mothers are covered by the Medi-Cal **Minor Consent Program, Aid Code 7N**, now also qualify for “deemed eligibility.” This is a **new** rule: see ACL 04-02, page 4. The Counties’ reviews for “deemed eligibility” must include the babies of Minor Consent moms.