

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 2002

TO: CDC Membership

FROM: Michael J. Arnold, Legislative Advocate
Kristian E. Foy, Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: **Political Action Strategy**

We are not waiting for the second shoe to fall. We write to encourage the immediate implementation of a political action strategy in response to the Medi-Cal reimbursement cutbacks proposed by the Governor last week. As we said in our earlier memorandum, the Governor has proposed a ten percent reduction in reimbursement to “all Medi-Cal providers.”

Legislative Action on Proposed Cut Not Imminent

The Governor called the Legislature into special session on December 9, 2002. The Governor presented his proposal for mid-year budget cuts, including the above mentioned cut in Medi-Cal provider reimbursement. The Legislature decided to delay action on the Governor’s proposal until publication of the Governor’s proposed budget for the 2003-04 fiscal year. The Constitution of the State requires the Governor to present a balanced budget to the Legislature on January 10.

CDC Advocacy Program

We propose the immediate implementation of a political strategy designed to stop the proposal to cut reimbursement rates for dialysis providers. This political strategy involves the following elements:

1. All dialysis facilities should invite their legislators for a tour and a visit with staff and patients. To determine your legislator, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and click on “Your Legislature.” Insert your zip code to find the name, address, and telephone number for your legislative representatives.
2. Patient letter writing campaign. Please encourage all of your patients to begin a letter writing campaign to your legislators. The patients should remind legislators that outpatient dialysis is a money saving service since it avoids in-patient hospitalization. Encourage your patients to add any additional information they deem appropriate. In fact, it would be appropriate to point out the fact that reimbursement under California’s Medi-Cal program already lags behind reimbursement rates paid under Medicare.

The key members of the Assembly and the Senate who will be working on the state budget are the members of the budget committees. **If your legislator is a member of either the Assembly or Senate Budget Committee, it is urgent that you and your patients immediately begin implementation of the above two actions.**

Assembly Budget Committee:

Oropeza (Chair), Campbell (Vice Chair), Bates, Benoit, Bermudez, Canciamilla, Chan, Chu, Cogdill, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Dymally, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Haynes, Jackson, Keene, Levine, Liu, Maze, McCarthy, Montanez, Nakano, Pacheco, Pavley, Reyes, Runner, Simitian, and Wolk. Phone: 319-2099.

Senate Budget Committee:

Chesbro (Chair). Other members not yet appointed for the 2003-04 legislative session. (We will provide the names when the appointments are made.)

Development of Grassroots Contact Program

At the January Board meeting the CDC Board will consider the adoption of a grassroots political contact program. More information will be developed on this topic soon!

Please let us know if you have questions or need further information of any kind.