

Hotline Focus

q My AFDC grantee is no longer eligible for assistance, though her two nieces and nephew are. I changed the action reason, on both the case and client 00, to 17 (grantee ineligible). PACES accepted the action reason in block 33 (case action reason), but it did not accept the action reason in block 89 (client action reason). Why did PACES prohibit the change in block 89 when it accurately reflects the case's circumstances?

a PACES only allows action reason 17 in block 89 for client 00 on an AFDC case, which is not currently on the system. If the case is on file, and in an open eligibility status, you simply close client 00 for the appropriate closing action reason. If the case is on file and closed (status 4), you can reopen the case with action reason 17 in block 33. Client 00 will remain closed. All other eligible dependents in the case would be reopened with their appropriate action reasons. Even though action reason 17 cannot be used in block 89 when the case is known to the system, PACES is reflecting the fact that the grantee is ineligible and is not receiving assistance.

q I recently corrected a dependent's social security number on a case closed in July 1992. The day after the change was keyed, I checked both PACES and MMIS to verify the update. I discovered that PACES had processed the change correctly, but MMIS had not. Before submitting the TD to data entry, I had accessed MMIS to ensure that the change could be accepted. What happened?

a PACES and MMIS have different schedules for processing demographic data changes on closed cases. Closed cases are either on PACES archived files or on PACES current files. Cases on the archived files are those that have been closed for a long time, such as July 1992. Demographic changes to cases on the current files are updated nightly by both PACES and MMIS. **Changes to cases on the archived files are processed nightly by PACES and weekly by MMIS.** This is why your change hasn't been processed by MMIS yet. Archived cases can be identified by the "today's date" display on the PACES inquiry screens. The date has hyphens between the month, day and year (e.g., 07-02-92). Cases on the current file have slashes between the month, day and year. (e.g., 02/



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01/94). The weekly MMIS processing is done each Monday night for those changes that were processed by PACES during the previous calendar week. For example, a change processed by PACES on Monday, March 7, 1994 would not be processed by MMIS until the evening of Monday, March 14, 1994. On Tuesday, March 15, 1994, both PACES and MMIS display and maintain the same data. Because you first verified MMIS's ability to accept the change, you eliminated the possibility of error.

q One of my Medicaid client's sons was incarcerated in a county lockup. He was injured while there and transferred to a local hospital. Should I reactivate his Medicaid eligibility to pay for his hospital admission?

a No, section 503.130 of the *Medicaid Policy Manual* states that inmate status is not interrupted or terminated by a transfer to a public or private medical or mental institution. Therefore, since your client's son is still an inmate, he is not eligible for Medical Assistance.

q I have an applicant for SSI-related Medical Assistance who is receiving \$600 per month in reparation payments from the Federal Republic of Germany. Her authorized representative claims that this income is noncountable for Medicaid eligibility. Is this true?

a Yes, section 505.230(SS) of the *Medicaid Policy Manual* states that these payments are noncountable in determining eligibility for Medical Assistance. You should, however, explore the possibility of a portion of this income being retained to create an excess asset.

q I have a homeless EA household temporarily staying in a hotel, whom I have referred to a family shelter. They have been interviewed and accepted. There is an opening at the shelter which they have refused. Do I have to refer this case to the Central Office Noncompliance Committee for a decision?

