NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

DEBRA ZANDERS-WILLIS
DIRECTOR
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
6950 LEVANT STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92111-6098
(858) 694-5413 FAX (858) 694-5475

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS
858-694-5111

POLICY AND PROGRAM SUPPORT
858-514-6603

POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER
858-514-4718

ADOLESCENT SERVICES
858-694-5751

January 26, 2011

To: Julia Takeuchi, California Department of Social Services

From: Debra Zanders-Willis, Director
Child Welfare Services

SPECIALIZED CARE INCREMENT (SCI) DETERMINATION DOCUMENTS

Special Care Increments are paid in addition to the basic foster care rate for children with special needs. They are intended to compensate caregivers for the additional time, effort, and expenses required to care for these children.

SCI Level	Name of Behavior/Problem	SCI Rate
Minimum	The child requires additional care and supervision because of a mild physical, mental, or developmental disability. The SCP may qualify for this SCI if he is expected to provide additional time and direct services beyond basic care expectations.	$85
Limited	The child requires additional care and supervision due to a moderate physical, mental, or developmental disability, which has been medically documented.	$147
Extensive	The child requires BOTH extensive supervision and personal services because of MODERATE to SEVERE physical handicaps, mental retardation, or emotional problems.	$216
Intensive	The child requires intensive supervision, training, and personal care because of acute physical handicaps, developmental disability or delay, severely impaired judgment, psychosis, or physical helplessness.	$260

Exceptional	The child has severe disabilities or impairments which require both intensive care and supervision and the SCP must have special skills and training. This category is limited to children who would otherwise require placement in an institutional setting.	$290-$926
Exclusive (HIV)	This rate is available to SCPs who care for children with HIV infection. The rate is based on the child's symptoms as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) classification system.	$895-$1318

Classification of personnel reviewing documentation:

- The SCI Coordinator will evaluate all SCI referrals and,
- Gather and review pertinent SCI information from the child's Social Worker (SW), Substitute Care Provider (SCP), medical and educational providers.
- Determine the rate and complete Authorization for Special Care Increment (10-43) (CWS/CMS template). Payment authorization is valid for up to 12 months.
- Send copies of the 10-43 to the SCP, Registrar and Human Services Specialist (HSS).
- Request new/updated medical verifications at intervals appropriate to the child's diagnosis/condition.
- Reevaluate the rate upon receiving new/updated information from the child's SW, SCP or service provider. As the child's condition changes, the SCI will be reduced, terminated, or increased, as needed.
- Notify the SCP of any changes in the Special Care Increment or direct cost reimbursement and explain the reasons for the rate change.
- Discontinue, adjust or authorize continued payment by completing a new 10-43 and sending copies to the SCP, Registrar and HSS at least every 12 months.
- Forward education related documentation to assigned SW, for input to the CWS/CMS case record.
- If the SCI Coordinator denies a request for a SCI, the Coordinator shall note the reason(s) for the denial on the 10-43 form and mail the 10-43 to the SCP and the SW.

Should you have questions, please contact Barbara Wiener, at 858-694-5447.

Sincerely,

DEBRA ZANDERS-WILLIS, Director
Child Welfare Services

DZW/bw

cc: Barbara Wiener, PAA