

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



January 19, 1995

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-04-95

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY AUDITOR CONTROLLERS  
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION  
OFFICERS ALL COUNTY MENTAL  
HEALTH DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation  
Change
- Court Order or Settlement  
Agreement
- Clarification Requested by  
One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RESULTING FROM PROBATION TRAINING  
ON THE TITLE IV-A EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) PROGRAM

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 94-89, ACL 94-90, ACL 93-64,  
ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-41-93  
COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) 93/94-04

The purpose of this letter is to transmit a series of questions and their answers pertaining to Title IV-A Emergency Assistance (EA) training which was provided to county Probation staff. This EA training was provided at the request of the California Probation Officers Consortium in order to provide Probation Officers with an understanding of the EA program requirements.

Questions have been categorized by the following subject areas: Allowable Program Costs, Application/Eligibility Determination, Services, Emergency Assistance Foster Care, and Monthly Statistics. This document is meant to provide a concise and comprehensive resource which will assist Probation Officers, County Workers, and Eligibility Workers in implementing the EA program. Further, this document supersedes any previous information distributed regarding EA policy and procedures and should be implemented effective immediately.

The California Probation Officers Consortium is to be commended for its positive input, patience, and cooperation in the development of this document.

Should you have any comments or questions regarding this material or any further questions concerning the EA program, please contact Ms. Nancy Stone in the Child Welfare Services Bureau at (916) 445-2890, or FAX (916) 445-2836.

MARJORIE KELLY  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division

## California Department of Social Services Child Welfare Services Bureau

### Title IV-A Emergency Assistance Probation Questions and Answers

#### ALLOWABLE PROGRAM COSTS

1. Q. If the court requires that parents be provided transportation to visit a child in foster care, are the costs of such transportation claimable?  
A. No. Claimable costs are limited to costs included in the capitated rate for probation facilities, the state approved rate for foster and shelter care facilities, after care costs, and costs associated with allowable administrative support activities. (Reference County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 93/94-04, pages 10-14).
2. Q. Can a county claim costs for hospital services provided to a child while in residential care in a county facility?  
A. Yes, but only if those costs are claimed as part of the facility's capitated rate.
3. Q. Can counties claim reimbursement for care provided to minors who have been remanded to adult court (WIC 707 cases) if the minors remain in juvenile hall pending hearings in adult court?  
A. Yes. The venue of court hearings is not relevant. What is relevant is whether the situation meets the Title IV-A definition of emergency, whether the family meets the eligibility criteria, and whether the child has been placed in an EA eligible facility.
4. Q. What is the definition of "bed day"? Must the bed be occupied for 24 hours?  
A. A claimable "bed day" in residential care is any of the following:
  - The day a child enters a facility providing residential care.
  - Any subsequent day the child is at the facility for all or part of the day with the exception of the last day.

#### APPLICATION/ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

5. Q. The Title IV-A EA program was created to provide assistance to children and their families who are in a crisis situation. How does the California Department of Social Services (COSS) define family for purposes of this program?  
A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: A family is composed of the child removed from the home by a court order (primary service child), all adult relatives of the child living in the home (including the head of household), and all related children living in the home. The service plan for the child may provide services to anyone in the child's family if the provision of those EA services are needed to help resolve or ameliorate the emergency.  
September 19, 1994 and later: A family is defined as those persons, who may or may not be related, that are living in the same residence which is maintained as their home and for whom EA assistance and/or services have been deemed necessary and appropriate in order to meet the needs of an "eligible needy child." Provision of assistance and/or

services to a family member is contingent upon the existence in the household of an "eligible needy child" who is experiencing an emergency shared with the family member. Each "eligible needy child" will be considered a family for the purposes of the assistance and/or services provided in the Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Probation EA components.

6. Q. When two siblings are removed from the same home, does the County Worker (CW) have to submit two applications to the Eligibility Worker (EW)?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: No. (Reference All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-41-93, Question 15). However, submitting two applications and building two separate files (one for each child) will facilitate accurate tracking of claimable costs and will simplify matters if eventually one child moves to a new household (for example, one child moves from the mother's home to the father's home).
- September 12, 1994 and later: An application must be taken for each child experiencing an emergency. Each child authorized to receive EA will have their own twelve-month eligibility period.
7. Q. A child has lived with his/her parents within the last six months; however, at the time he/she is taken into custody and lodged in juvenile hall, he/she is living with a non-relative legal guardian. Is the case eligible for EA?
- A. Yes. The case is EA eligible if the court has not terminated parental rights as part of the proceedings leading to the vesting of legal guardianship in the non-relative adult. (Reference ACIN I-41-93, Question 29 for information on a legal guardian's status as a qualified relative).
8. Q. If neither the child nor the adult who could qualify as a head of household (HOH) has a social security number (SSN), can the SSN of a parent not living in the home be used on the EA application?
- A. No. SSNs are used as unique identifiers of persons living in the family home. If necessary, the CW should help members of the family obtain a SSN for the child. As of September 19, 1994, it is state policy that each child receiving EA assistance and/or services (unless they are undocumented) have an SSN. Applications for children who do not have SSNs and are not undocumented must be authorized presumptively.
9. Q. What does the term "living with" mean for eligibility purposes?
- A. "Living with" means having spent at least one night in the home of a relative with the intent of making a home for the child on a long term basis, including assuming the daily responsibility for that child.
10. Q. John and James are siblings. John lives with his parents. James lives with his grandparents. If John's behavior results in an EA application and that application is approved, is James eligible for services as part of the same episode?
- A. No. Services can only be provided to other adults or children in the same household from which the eligible needy child is removed. However, James could be EA eligible if he was experiencing his own emergency.

11. Q. Given the family structure described in Question 10 above, if James moved into his parents' home would he be eligible for services?
- A. Yes, but only if James was found to be eligible for EA based on his own emergency (i.e., James behavior resulted in his removal from the home for a period of more than 72 hours per a judicial determination).
12. Q. Are there any rules for determining who should be listed as "HOH"?
- A. HOH is defined as the parent or specified relative with whom the "needy child" is, or within six months prior to the month in which EA is requested, has been, living with in a shared residence. However, it is suggested that the mother, if present in the home, be designated as the HOH. If the mother is not present in the home, then the father should be designated as the HOH. If both parents are not present in the home from which the child is removed, then a specified relative should be designated as the HOH.
13. Q. If the court orders a child's removal from the home of one parent and requires that the child live with the other parent in a separate household, is that considered a "removal" for purposes of Title IV-A?
- A. Yes. It is a removal provided that the child's change of residence is required by a court order and the removal lasts longer than 72 hours. However, no residential care costs may be claimed for those periods of time when the child resides with the other parent. After care costs need to be documented as they would be in any other case.
14. Q. If two children from the same family are removed from the home two months apart and in each case the parents refuse to cooperate and the probation officer must sign the EA application form, should each child be considered a separate "family of one"?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: No. However, removal of the second child could be considered part of a continuing episode if the original case plan provided for the possibility of services to siblings. In such a case, the second child would only be eligible for the remainder of the first child's EA period of eligibility.
- September 12, 1994 and later: Yes. Based on child specific eligibility, each "eligible needy child" would be considered a "family" for the purposes of the assistance and/or services provided in the Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Probation EA components.
15. Q. How is family income determined? Is all income earned by all members of the family to be considered?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: All income earned or received by all family members residing in the home is to be considered.
- September 12, 1994 and later: Only the child's income is to be considered when determining income eligibility.
16. Q. If a child is eligible to receive EA services as a member of a household headed by the mother and the child moves into the father's home in a different county, does the child remain eligible for EA services?

- A. Yes. It would be considered a continuation of the original episode and the Not to Exceed Date (NTE) would remain the same.
17. Q. At what point is a child considered to have been removed from the family home?
- A. A child has been removed from the home when he/she:
- Enters a probation or other county operated residential facility
  - Enters foster care as a result of a court order
  - Begins living with relatives other than those in the household from which the child was removed as a result of a court order (relative placements do not qualify for EA funding unless the relative's home is being used as emergency shelter care)
18. Q. If a minor who has been held at least 72 hours pending a detention hearing is ordered detained and then is released on Home Supervision (W&I 628.1) at the hearing, does the time in custody pending the hearing meet the "72-hour removal requirement"?
- A. Yes, since the child remains under the supervision of the Probation Department and more than 72 hours were spent in detention, the child remains eligible for EA services while on Home Supervision.
19. Q. What is the effective date of the new one-year eligibility period?
- A. April 1, 1994 through September 18, 1994: All families who were determined to be eligible for EA in response to an application signed on or after April 1, 1994, are eligible to receive services for a period of one year beginning on the date the application was signed if the application was modified to indicate that twelve months, instead of six months, of services were authorized by the EW.
- September 12, 1994 and later: A new application is in place and modification is no longer required. Additionally, the twelve-month period of eligibility begins from the date of authorization.
20. Q. How will the new one-year period of eligibility for service affect families whose application for EA was signed prior to April 1, 1994?
- A. Those families who signed the EA application prior to April 1, 1994, will not be affected by the new period of eligibility for service. They remain eligible for a period of service not to exceed six months from the date the application was signed by the parent/relative or county worker.
21. Q. What factors must exist for a situation to constitute a Title IV-A "emergency" which must result in an application for EA by a Probation County Worker?
- A. The behavior of the child must result in:
- a) Removal of the child from the home, and
  - b) A judicial determination that the child must remain out of the home for more than 72 hours.
22. Q. Can counties claim reimbursement for children who are eighteen years old and who are housed in a county juvenile facility if they meet all other EA eligibility criteria?

- A. Yes. Federal law defines children as persons who have not reached 21 years of age. Therefore, EA can be provided to a child up to the age of 21 as long as all other EA eligibility criteria are met.
23. Q. Are probation minors allowed to use Medi-Cal Eligibility and Data System (MEDS) pseudo numbers in order to process applications?
- A. Yes. A MEDS pseudo number can be assigned to a probation minor pending the child's application for an SSN as long as the HOH has an SSN. Refer to ACL 94-90 for information regarding SSN requirements.
24. Q. Why are "X" numbers allowed for aliens if MEDS pseudo numbers cannot be used?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: Undocumented aliens cannot legally obtain an SSN, so an alternative had to be devised for them. The "X" number was devised as the method for identifying undocumented aliens.
- September 19, 1994 and later: Undocumented aliens will be assigned a MEDS pseudo number by ACE when they are entered into the statewide tracking database. This is now possible as the ACE system is part of the MEDS network.
25. Q. What is "good cause" for refusing employment or training, and what information must the EW consider when making the determination that the emergency did not arise because the HOH "refused without good cause" to accept employment or training?
- A. For Title IV-A EA purposes, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) definition of good cause found in the CDSS Eligibility and Assistance Standards (EAS) Manual Section 41-440.263 is to be used. However, the parent or specified relative certification on the EA application is sufficient when the parent or specified relative signs the application. When the CW signs in lieu of the parent or specified relative, the CW is responsible for making sufficient and appropriate inquiries to make such a certification.
26. Q. What is meant by "training" and "employment"?
- A. For EA eligibility determination purposes, the AFDC definitions of training and employment found in CDSS EAS Manual Section 41-440.26 are to be used. (Reference Question 25 above for certification requirements.)
27. Q. Is a case eligible for EA if a court orders a minor to receive out-of-home care in a community based organization shelter and the child is out of the home for more than 72 hours?
- A. Yes, but probation cases are eligible only if the removal from the home was a result of the child's behavior.
28. Q. If a family becomes eligible for EA as a result of an application submitted by a County Welfare Department (CWD) worker based on abuse or neglect of a child, and that child subsequently engages in behavior that results in the filing of a 602 WIC petition, can the residential care provided by a Probation Department be claimed as part of a continuing episode?

- A. September 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: No. The child would not have been eligible for Probation services as a continuation of the CWS emergency. However, the county could choose to abate the CWS emergency in favor of the Probation emergency.
- September 12, 1994 and later: Yes, provided a probation application was taken and services were authorized within the allowable timeframe which is 30 calendar days from the date of authorization.
29. Q. If a family becomes eligible for EA as a result of an application filed by a CWD worker and a sibling subsequently is lodged in a juvenile hall on a 602 WIC petition, can the Probation Department claim reimbursement for the residential services for the sibling as part of a continuing episode for the family?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: Yes, but only if the original case plan developed by the CWD worker included provisions for services to siblings and the first sibling's case had not been closed. Services to a second sibling could not extend beyond the original NTE date. The case plan would have to indicate that the sibling exhibited signs of delinquent behavior and that services were needed to control the sibling's behavior.
- September 12, 1994 and later: An application must be taken for each child experiencing an emergency. Multiple children in the same household may have different but concurrent twelve-month periods of eligibility.
30. Q. What needs to be done with a Notice of Action (NOA) which is returned as undeliverable by the Postal Service?
- A. The returned NOA should be filed in the eligibility file, including documentation of the Postal Services inability to deliver the NOA.
31. Q. If a child is released from juvenile hall before the EW determines eligibility and signs the application (whether or not eligibility has been authorized presumptively), must the application be denied?
- A. No. Denial is only required. when EA services are no longer being provided at the time authorization of services is made or if the child did not remain in out of home care for 72 hours. Since both residential and after care services are services which may be provided under California's Title IV-A State Plan for probation children, release from juvenile hall does not terminate services, or eligibility, unless court jurisdiction is also terminated or unless the provision of after care services is not authorized by the EW.
32. Q. How does authorization for EA affect a family's AFDC eligibility?
- A. EA and AFDC are entirely separate programs. If a family's child remains in custody past the end of the month, their AFDC payment will be reduced. However, that reduction would occur regardless of whether the family was authorized to receive EA. The District Attorney does not seek additional parental reimbursement as a result of a family receiving EA; however, any parental reimbursement for foster care costs which would otherwise be collected will still be collected from the parents regardless of the family's EA status.

33. Q. How should the EW notify the CW that presumptive eligibility has been used to authorize EA services?
- A. The CW should be given a written notice which includes the date that services were authorized and the name of the EW taking the action. This may be done on a photocopy of the application form. Effective September 19, 1994, the EA application has been revised to include a comment section for the CW to use to request presumptive eligibility.
34. Q. If a child is detained and EA services are authorized based on presumptive eligibility and the child is returned home before final determination of eligibility is completed, is the child eligible for EA?
- A. Yes. If EA services have been authorized by the EW before the child's return home and the child has been detained for 72 hours, the child is eligible for EA.
35. Q. If a child for whom EA services have been authorized within the last 12 months is returned to Juvenile Hall, must a new application be submitted to the EW? Would the new removal from the home be treated as a new episode or as part of the continuing episode?
- A. If a child who is receiving EA after care services is returned to juvenile hall, the matter may be dealt with either as a new episode or as a continuing episode. The county may want to consider it a new episode if the new removal is likely to result in lengthy residential care and previous removals during the episode resulted in minimal residential care. In such circumstances the first episode should be abated. However, if the child's return to juvenile hall is for relatively minor misbehavior, it will generally be preferable to treat the matter as part of a continuing episode. It is not necessary to submit a new EA application when a child is returned to residential care and the matter is treated as a continuing episode. Remember, however, continuing episodes last no longer than six (or since April 1, 1994, twelve) months and the child(ren) must remain under the jurisdiction of a probation department throughout the episode Refer to page 17, #52 for conditions designating a new or continuous episode.
36. Q. How long does the CW have to submit a notice of abatement on a previous episode in order to claim a new episode?
- A. In order to claim the second episode, the abatement process for the first episode must be complete and eligibility determined regarding the second episode before EA services pertaining to the second episode end. As long as presumptive eligibility has been utilized, the notice of abatement is the deciding timeframe. If the EW does not choose to use presumptive eligibility, the entire process of abating the first episode and authorizing the services and determining eligibility would have to occur within 30 days of the application date.
37. Q. How should a CW ask an EW to grant presumptive eligibility?
- A. July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994: The CW may suggest presumptive eligibility in the form of a note or memo which can be attached to the signed application. It should be noted that in all instances the EW is responsible for deciding whether presumptive eligibility is appropriate.



September 19, 1994 and later: It is suggested that Item 6 on the EA application be used to suggest presumptive eligibility.

38. Q. Do state instructions mandate a supervisor's signature in the Eligibility Worker's Verification section of the EA application form?
- A. No. An area for the supervisor's signature was provided for use in those counties where county or agency policy requires such a signature.
39. Q. What does eligibility have to track? Once EA is authorized by the EW, does the EW need to track anything?
- A. The EW needs to track pending applications in order to ensure that needed information is obtained in a timely manner and that all applications are processed as soon as possible. This is particularly important when presumptive eligibility is being utilized. Additionally, copies of all documents regarding changes in a family's record and which are included in the EA tracking system need to be kept, as well as, all documents which are required to be part of the eligibility case file documentation. (Reference ACL 93-64, pages 5 and 12).
40. Q. If a family has already used its six months or twelve months of eligibility and the child is returned to juvenile hall, why would you make another application for EA?
- A. Federal regulations require states to make a distinction between submitting an application for services and authorizing the provision of services. CWs are required to submit an application for every new situation which meets the definition of an emergency as defined in the Title IV-A State Plan. Only EWs are empowered to determine whether a family is eligible for federally funded EA. In addition, the county may decide to abate the first episode in favor of the second episode if it appears that the county may be eligible for more federal funding under the second episode.
41. Q. At the dispositional hearing on a non-custody case, the court orders a child committed to a county ranch program. There are no immediate openings at the ranch so the child is ordered to report to the ranch when directed by the probation officer. When should an application be submitted to the EW?
- A. The EA application should be submitted as soon as possible after the minor has been detained for more than 72 hours. In some cases this may be before the court hearing and in some cases it may be after the child reports to the ranch.
42. Q. Is the situation described in Question 41 above really an "emergency"?
- A. Yes, it is an emergency as defined in the Title IV-A State Plan in that:
- The child was removed from the home as a result of the child's behavior,
  - The removal was for a period of more than 72 hours, and
  - A court determined that the removal was necessary.
43. Q. If a court orders a child to participate in a weekend program lasting from 6:00 P.M. Friday night to 6:00 P.M. Sunday night for a period of ten weeks and there is no other removal from the home, can the minor be considered to have been removed from the home for a period of more than 72 hours?

- A. Yes. To qualify as a Title IV-A emergency, removals from the home must be longer than 72 hours but are not required to be 72 consecutive hours. However, the Court order must specify that the child participate in such an arrangement.
44. Q. A child receives services until the NTE date and continues to receive supervision services thereafter. Fourteen months after the original application is submitted, the child is again lodged in juvenile hall. Is the second removal a new or continuing episode? If it is a new episode is it claimable?
- A. It is a new episode if the second removal is in response to a new emergency. The new emergency is EA claimable if it meets the definition of an emergency contained in the Title IV-A State Plan and the family meets all other eligibility criteria.
45. Q. A child is returned to residential care eleven months after an approved EA application was submitted. The child is not eligible for EA at the time of his return because a year has not passed since the episode began. Three months later he becomes involved in a fight at the institution and is returned to court where he is ordered to serve an additional 60 days in custody. Is the 60 days claimable?
- A. No. The child must be removed from the home of a parent or specified relative. Further, under new policy, effective September 19, 1994, the EA application must be taken forthwith but no later than JO-calendar days from the date of removal.
46. Q. What is the deadline for submission of EA applications?
- A. The EA application must be signed by a parent/relative or a CW in lieu of a parent within 30 days of the child's removal from the home. It is to be submitted to the EW without delay because the EW only has 30 days from the date of the application in which to authorize services. (Reference ACL 94-90 page 7)
47. Q. If an EA eligible child runs away and the NTE date has expired before the child returns to court, is this a new or continuing episode?
- A. It is a new episode provided the child has lived with a parent or relative within the past six months and all other eligibility criteria are met.
48. Q. If a child has been cared for in a probation residential facility, but during that time has been granted weekend furloughs, do those furloughs constitute "living with" for Title IV-A purposes?
- A. No. When a child is visiting on a furlough basis, the child is still under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department and is not considered to be "living with" the parent or specified relative for EA purposes. The furloughed weekends may be EA claimable if the visits are part of the child's case plan as approved within the 30-day service authorization period.
49. Q. Are families whose permanent address is out-of-state eligible for EA in this state?
- A. For EA purposes, a family is not required to have a permanent address in California. If a child's permanent address is out of state, the CW should use the actual home address. If the family has a temporary address in California, the CW may use that address if it is expected that the family will remain in California until the child is returned to the parent/relative.

## SERVICES

50. Q. What are the essential elements of a service plan?

A. Service plans are required for each case and must contain the following elements:

- Identification of issues which need to
- be addressed in order to resolve or ameliorate the family emergency
- Identification of the services needed to address issues
- Identification of goals or the next
- steps which need to be taken in working with the family to resolve the emergency situation
- Identification of services that were provided

It is also highly recommended that:

July 1, 1993 through September 1994:

- The service plan include provisions for after care and possible future residential care which may be needed to deal with the family's emergency. This lays the foundation for dealing with future juvenile behavior and permits the identification of those incidents as a continuation of the originating episode.
- The service plan should mention that services which are "necessary and appropriate" will be provided to all members of the family, including siblings. Doing so enables juvenile behavior by siblings to be dealt with as part of the continuing episode if the sibling's behavior is related to the primary child's emergency. Proper completion of the EA 2 Form constitutes the development of a service plan which meets the EA Title IV-A requirements.

September 19, 1994 and later: Based on child specific eligibility, it is no longer necessary to include in the service plan provisions for a sibling's possible juvenile behavior since each child is eligible for his/her own twelve-month period of eligibility.

51. Q. What is the deadline for completion of the initial assessment?

A. The initial assessment must be completed prior to or on the date of application.

52. Q. What is the distinction between a new and a continuing episode?

A. A new episode must be based on the occurrence of a new emergency situation. In order for an episode to be classified as a continuing episode, the following conditions must exist:

July 1, 1993 through September 18, 1994:

- The NTE date must not have expired
- The child's probation case must have remained active, even if no services were actually being paid for during the interim time period
- The possibility of the new behavior or recurrence of a previous behavior must have been documented in a previous EA service/case plan

- The possibility of a change in placement or the use of alternative services as a response to the originating behavior must have been anticipated in the original service/case plan

September 11, 1994 and later:

- The NTE date must not have expired
- The child's probation case must have remained active, even if no services were actually being paid for during the interim time period.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOSTER CARE (EAFC)**

53. Q. If a child runs away from foster care and returns to his/her parent, and the parent fails to report the child's presence in the home to the Probation Department, can the time the child spends in the home qualify as "living with" a parent or relative even though the Court has vested custody with the Probation Officer for placement?
- A. Yes, if the county is going to consider the return as a new emergency and take an application on the child's behalf. However, if the new emergency occurs prior to the NTE date the county must decide whether to abate the previous episode.
54. Q. Can the District Attorney collect child support payments from parents while a child is in an EAFC placement?
- A. Yes, the CDSS will be issuing an ACL regarding child support referrals and collections for children in out-of-home placements which are EA funded.
55. Q. If a child returns home on weekend furloughs as part of a family reunification plan, does that constitute "living with" for EA Title IV-A purposes?
- A. No. The child remains a ward of the court or dependent so the responsibility for the child lies with the county agency responsible for his/her care and control. The furlough days can be claimed for EA purposes if the child's case plan provides for the visitation. Under the furlough concept, the child is merely visiting not "living with" his/her family while on furlough.

**MONTHLY STATISTICS**

56. Q. Should the number of cases reported in the After Care section of the EA statistical report reflect the number of minors receiving after care or the number for whom after care services are being claimed?
- A. The number should reflect the number of minors for whom after care is being claimed.