

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Division of Family and Economic Security
Bureau of Child Support**

**To: Child Support Directors
Child Support Supervisors or Lead Workers
Child Support Attorneys**

**CHILD SUPPORT
BULLETIN**

No.: 09-27

Date: 10/05/2009

**From: Director
Bureau of Child Support**

Subject: Changes to OCSE-157 Report to Include LYIN and NONM obligations

Purpose

This bulletin informs child support agencies of programming changes to the OCSE-157. The report will now count birth-cost orders (LYIN ASGNA & LYIN USGNA) and non-covered medical expense (NONM) cases as cases with orders. This change appears on the OCSE 157 Report generated for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 (FFY09).

Background

Previously, the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) instructed BCS that lying-in debts were considered costs, not child support. In April 2008, BCS issued new policy for child support guidelines to set birth costs and medical support orders. In addition, OCSE now defines medical support as any health coverage provided for a child or children, including: private health insurance; payment of cash medical support; or collection of medical bills where payments are processed through the statewide automated system, KIDS.

Based on OCSE's new interpretation, a LYIN debt is now considered a child support debt and not a cost debt. Therefore, KIDS will now include LYIN ASGNA/USGNA subaccounts on the following lines of the OCSE-157:

- Line 2 – Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year with Support Orders Established
- Line 2e – Arrears-Only IV-D Cases with Orders Established Open at the End of the Fiscal Year
- Line 26 – Total Amount of Arrears Due for All Fiscal Years
- Line 27 – Total Amount of Support Distributed as Arrears during the Fiscal Year
- Line 28 – Cases with Arrears Due during the Fiscal Year
- Line 29 – Cases Paying Toward Arrears during the Fiscal Year

Non-covered Medical (NONM) is a non-financial obligation that requires parents to pay the costs of non-covered health care expenditures. NONM will now be included as a non-financial obligation on the following line of the OCSE-157:

- Line 2 – Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year with Support Orders Established

Policy

Effective with the OCSE 157 report run on September 30, 2009, cases with LYIN-only or NONM-only will be counted as cases with orders, and payments on LYIN or NONM obligations made during the federal fiscal year will count as a payment toward arrears.

In addition, any payments made on state-owed arrears in TANF or former TANF cases where a portion of the payment is passed through to the family will count as a payment toward arrears.

Non-covered Medical (NONM) obligations that require parents to share the costs for out-of-pocket health care expenditures must be entered in KIDS as a non-financial medical support obligation. Although CSAs are not required to provide services to calculate and recover non-covered medical expenses, parties may use *pro se* or small claims actions to recover non-covered expenses. Non-covered medical expenses that are reduced to a judgment in the family case may be entered on KIDS as a USGNA OMED obligation, and court-ordered payments toward these expenses are subject to income withholding and other enforcement remedies. Once entered as a KIDS financial obligation, these obligations will be included as arrears due and counted for performance purposes in the Arrears Collection Rate.

Local CSA's may see a change in their arrears collection rate as a result of these changes. BCS will conduct an analysis of the FFY 2009 OCSE 157 Report to determine the impact on the Arrears Collection Rate performance measure.