

MEMORANDUM FOR:

From:

Subject: Caregivers in the 1989 Long Term Care Survey (LTC)

I Purpose

This memorandum documents some decisions that involve the number of caregivers in the 1989 LTC. In the 1989 LTC a subsample of persons interviewed with the community questionnaire were supposed to have a caregiver interview provided they met the definition for having a caregiver and had a C in their control number. When doing research using the 1989 LTC Public Users Tape, several persons were discovered with a C in their control number who met the definition for having a caregiver but were not assigned a caregiver interview. The main purpose of this memorandum is to identify these persons and define them as having a caregiver for purposes of analysis. Most of these persons clearly met the definition for having a caregiver. A small group of these persons did not explicitly meet the definition for having a caregiver. However, based on other information in the community questionnaire, we felt that these persons probably do have a caregiver and should also be counted as having a caregiver.

II. Persons Who Met the Definition for Having a Caregiver but Were Not Assigned a Caregiver Interview

In order to be defined as having a caregiver, a person needed to have a helper who was a paid relative or an unpaid relative or an unpaid nonrelative and this helper needed to help more than zero hours in the week before the interview on ADL or IADL activities.

Using the LTC community questionnaire, a person had a caregiver if a helper was listed on the backflap of the questionnaire who was not marked as paid to help and who had total hours for ADL or IADL activities greater than zero. Note that if a helper was a relative they were not supposed to be coded as a paid helper even if they were paid to help.

Using the LTC Public Users Tape for program 7 (IADL and Helpers) with program 10 (helpers-backflap) attached, a person was defined as having a caregiver if the following were true:

- 1) Fields 1-4 contain the characters IADL (referred to as an IADL identifier) and

- 2) Fields 0108-0110 (PGM 10 item 3D source code 004 on the backflap) contains a value greater than 0 OR

Fields 0112-0114 (PGM 10 item 3E source code 005 on the backflap) contains a value greater than 0 and

- 3) Field 0118 (PGM 7 item 3G source code 007 on the backflap) does not contain the number 1.

There were 30 persons in the 1989 LTC who had a caregiver based on the definition above and had a C in their control number but were not assigned a caregiver interview. Attachment A indicates for each of these persons their control number, their interview status recode, and for each of their possible caregivers the total hours spent on ADL activities, the total hours spent on IADL activities and whether the caregiver was paid. Attachment C indicates the same information but it is all on one page with a single line for each person. For analysis purposes these persons should be defined as caregivers.

III

Persons Who Probably Have a Caregiver Based on Information in the Main Part of the Questionnaire

There were some persons that would not have been defined as having a caregiver with the definition above but probably have a caregiver. In the main part of the questionnaire these persons indicated that they were helped by a caregiver for more than zero days but on the backflap they were missing information for hours spent on ADL or IADL activities. It was felt that these persons probably have a caregiver but the interviewer forgot to transcribe their ADL and/or IADL hours to the backflap of the questionnaire. Translating this to the LTC Public Users Tape, a person was defined as having a caregiver if 1) and 3) of the definition in II. above were true and

- 1) Fields 0108-0110 (PGM 10 item 3D source code 004 on the backflap) and/or Fields 0112-0114 (PGM 10 item 3E source code 006) on the backflap are missing information but
- 2) Field 0013 (PGM 7 item 15A source code 002) contains a value > 0

There were 12 persons in the 1989 LTC who had a caregiver based on the definition above and had a C in their control number but were not assigned a caregiver interview. Attachment B indicates for each of these persons their control number, their interview status recode, and for each of their possible caregivers the total hours spent on ADL activities, the total hours spent on IADL activities, whether the caregiver was paid and whether the caregiver spent more than zero days helping in the week before the interview. Attachment D indicates the same information but with a single line for each person. For analysis purposes these persons should be defined as caregivers.