

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DAY TREATMENT BENEFIT

Beginning October 1, 2026, to align with updates to Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 75.52](#), ForwardHealth will replace the current substance abuse day treatment benefit with an integrated behavioral health day treatment benefit that covers:

- Substance use disorder (SUD) day treatment services.
- Mental health day treatment services.
- Co-occurring SUD and mental health day treatment services.

Note: In Wisconsin, DHS 75.52 refers to day treatment services, which corresponds to partial hospitalization or high-intensity outpatient services within the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria framework.

This ForwardHealth Update has information about:

- [Revised provider specialties and enrollment.](#)
- [Expanded day treatment access for youth.](#)

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Adult Mental Health Day Treatment Providers, Hospital Providers, Substance Abuse Day Treatment Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

QUICK LINKS

- [ForwardHealth Online Handbook](#)
- [Forms page](#)

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 75.



- [Prior authorization \(PA\).](#)
- [Claim submission.](#)
- [Other day treatment coverage changes.](#)
- [Unaffected day treatment policies.](#)
- [ForwardHealth Online Handbook changes.](#)

Revised Provider Specialties and Enrollment

ForwardHealth revised the provider specialties under the day treatment provider type to reflect the newly integrated changes in the service defined in Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52.

Effective October 1, 2026, current substance abuse day treatment providers certified under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52 will see their specialty change from substance abuse agency (802) to mental health/substance abuse agency (803). ForwardHealth will stop using substance abuse agency specialty 802.

Providers currently enrolled with Wisconsin Medicaid will not need to re-enroll or take any action for these changes to be in effect. Newly enrolled providers certified under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52 will be enrolled as behavioral health day treatment providers.

Hospital providers will retain their current specialty code and enrollment.

Information for Dually Enrolled Day Treatment Providers

Day treatment providers dually enrolled under Wis. Admin. Code §§ DHS 75.52 and [61.75](#) are categorized as specialty mental health/substance abuse agencies (803) and will not experience any change.

The DHS 75.52 certification is sufficient to provide SUD, mental health, or co-occurring SUD and mental health day treatment services without any additional certification. Providers must maintain both their DHS 61.75 certification and their Medicaid enrollment as an adult mental health day treatment provider to continue providing mental health day treatment

Effective October 1, 2026, current substance abuse day treatment providers certified under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52 will see their specialty change from substance abuse agency (802) to mental health/substance abuse agency (803). ForwardHealth will stop using substance abuse agency specialty 802.

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services under that benefit in accordance with its coverage policies and PA requirements.

Note: While providers certified under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52 will have the option to provide SUD, mental health, and co-occurring SUD and mental health day treatment services, they are not required to provide all of these services.

Certification Requirements Exemption for Federally Qualified Health Centers

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) are exempt from certification requirements and will remain enrolled under their current provider type.

Allowable rendering providers for FQHCs submitting behavioral health day treatment claims include:

- Advanced practice nurse prescribers.
- Psychiatric nurses.
- Licensed psychologists.
- Licensed psychotherapists.
- Certified psychotherapists.
- Qualified treatment trainees.
- Alcohol and other drug abuse counselors.

Expanded Day Treatment Access for Youth

The behavioral health day treatment benefit includes coverage for members of all ages, allowing continued access to SUD treatment and creating new access to mental health and co-occurring day treatment services for youth.

As a reminder, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 75.22\(6\)](#), providers are required to provide treatment services for youth and adults separately, with the exception of transitional-age youth, as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 75.03\(91\)](#). Services for transitional-age youth (ages 16–24) must be separate from other services provided for minors or adults.

Prior Authorization

For dates of service on and after October 1, 2026, PA is required for all treatment services covered under the behavioral health day treatment benefit.

QUICK LINKS

- Attachments topic [#446](#)
- Backdating for Initial and Renewal Requests topic [#439](#)
- Grant Date topic [#441](#)
- Noncovered Services topic [#6667](#)
- Initial Prior Authorization Criteria topic [#6668](#)
- Prior Authorization for HealthCheck Other Services topic [#1](#)
- Prior Authorization Request Form topic [#448](#)
- Services Requiring Prior Authorization topic [#3755](#)
- Supporting Clinical Documentation topic [#449](#)

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However, assessments do not require PA for the first eight assessment hours in a rolling 12-month period.

Submit these forms to request PA for behavioral health day treatment services:

- Prior Authorization Request Form (PA/RF), [F-11018 \(04/2026\)](#)
- Prior Authorization/Behavioral Health Day Treatment Attachment (PA/BHDTA) form, [F-03454 \(10/2026\)](#)

The PA/BHDTA form replaces the Prior Authorization/Substance Abuse Day Treatment Attachment (PA/SADTA) form, F-11037 (07/2012).

Refer to the Prior Authorization section of the [Behavioral Health Day Treatment service area](#) of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook, which includes these topics for more information:

- Supporting Clinical Documentation topic [#449](#)
- Attachments topic [#446](#)
- Services Requiring Prior Authorization topic [#3755](#)

Refer to the Initial Prior Authorization Criteria topic [#6668](#) for admission criteria for PA requests.

Documents for Clinical Review

Supporting clinical documentation is required for all behavioral health day treatment PA requests. Providers must upload the behavioral health day treatment PA supporting documents listed in the table for clinical review.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DAY TREATMENT SERVICES	
Treatment Service	Supporting Documents for Clinical Review
SUD Only	• Bio-psychosocial assessment • ASAM level of care determination • Treatment plan • Continuing care plan
Mental Health Only	• Mental health assessment • Treatment plan • Continuing care plan

NEW PA FORM

Prior Authorization/Behavioral Health Day Treatment Attachment (PA/BHDTA) form, [F-03454 \(10/2026\)](#)

Note: Forms can be found on the [Forms](#) page of the Portal.

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REQUIRED SUPPORTING CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DAY TREATMENT SERVICES

Treatment Service	Supporting Documents for Clinical Review
Co-Occurring SUD and Mental Health	• Bio-psychosocial assessment • Mental health assessment* • ASAM level of care determination • Treatment plan • Continuing care plan

*For members in co-occurring treatment, the mental health assessment can be part of the bio-psychosocial assessment.

Note: If a provider submits a PA request without all the required documentation, the request will be denied as incomplete. The request will not be reviewed by a clinician to evaluate the medical necessity of the requested service. Refer to the Denied Requests topic [#425](#) for available options providers can take when a PA request is denied.

PA Requests and Start Date

The start date of an approved or modified PA request is the first date services are authorized and may be reimbursed under that PA. Providers must put the specific date on a PA request that they will begin providing services.

Requirements for PA Amendments to Extend Behavioral Health Day Treatment

Providers may submit a PA amendment request to extend a member's medically necessary treatment beyond the last day of treatment listed on an existing PA. **ForwardHealth must receive the amendment before the existing PA expires, or the provider must submit a new PA request.** The amendment must include:

- A completed Prior Authorization Amendment Request form, [F-11042 \(07/2012\)](#).
- An updated ASAM level of care determination for SUD only or co-occurring.
- An updated mental health assessment if change in level of care for mental health only or co-occurring.
- An updated plan of care or treatment plan with progress reports.
- An updated discharge criteria and a continuing care plan.

ForwardHealth will not [backdate](#) PAs to cover gaps in services.

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Claim Submission

Procedure Code and Modifiers

Beginning October 1, 2026, behavioral health day treatment providers must use these modifiers with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System procedure code H2012 (Behavioral health day treatment, per hour):

- Use modifier HE (Mental health program) when submitting claims for mental health day treatment services. This modifier was previously only used in the adult mental health day treatment benefit.
- Use modifier HF (Substance abuse program) when submitting claims for substance abuse day treatment services.
- Use new modifier HH (Integrated mental health/substance abuse program) when submitting claims for co-occurring SUD and mental health day treatment services.

Other Day Treatment Coverage Changes

Previously, coverage didn't include affected family members. Now, behavioral health day treatment services involving family members may be reimbursed when they are directly related to the member's treatment goals per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 107.13\(3m\)\(c\)4](#).

Previously, coverage never included recreation-oriented activities. Now, recreation-oriented activities may be covered if they are directly related to the member's treatment goals per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 107.13\(3m\)\(d\)3](#).

Refer to the Noncovered Services topic [#6667](#) for additional information.

Unaffected Day Treatment Policies

These policies aren't affected by substance abuse day treatment's transition to the integrated behavioral health day treatment benefit.

Adult Mental Health Day Treatment

Policies for the adult mental health day treatment benefit are not changing as a part of DHS 75 updates. Providers should continue to follow the existing policies in the [Adult Mental Health Day Treatment](#) service area of the Online Handbook. Providers certified under DHS 61.75 can refer to the [Revised Provider Specialties and Enrollment](#) section for any changes to enrollment requirements related to DHS 75 updates.

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Child Adolescent Day Treatment

Policies for the child adolescent day treatment benefit are not changing as a part of DHS 75 updates. Providers should continue to follow the existing policies in the [Child/Adolescent Day Treatment, HealthCheck Other Services](#) service area of the Online Handbook. Providers certified under DHS 40 can refer to the [Revised Provider Specialties and Enrollment](#) section for any changes to enrollment requirements related to DHS 75 updates.

Service and Staffing Requirements

Staffing requirements for substance abuse day treatment providers certified under Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.52 outlined in Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 75.48\(1\)](#) are not changing as a part of DHS 75 updates. This means providers will not need to change their current service and staffing to maintain their enrollment.

Treatment Hour Limitation

The current five-hour maximum daily treatment limitation is not changing as a part of the DHS 75 updates. As a reminder, additional hours may be approved for members under age 21 via HealthCheck Other Services, Wisconsin's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT), if the service is determined to be medically necessary for a member. Refer to the Prior Authorization for HealthCheck Other Services topic [#1](#) for instructions on requesting an exception to coverage limitations.

Online Handbook Service Area Title Change

ForwardHealth will update the [Online Handbook](#) and change the title of the Substance Abuse Day Treatment service area to Behavioral Health Day Treatment.

Behavioral health day treatment providers must follow all existing Medicaid policies and procedures detailed in the Online Handbook.

Behavioral health day treatment providers can also refer to the [Resources for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Providers](#) page of the Portal for more information.

QUICK LINKS

- [Resources for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Providers](#) page
- [Behavioral Health Day Treatment](#) service area
- [Child/Adolescent Day Treatment, HealthCheck Other Services](#) service area
- [Adult Mental Health Day Treatment](#) service area

Documentation Retention

As a reminder, providers must follow the documentation retention requirements per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Providers are required to produce or submit documentation, or both, to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) upon request. Per Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services shall maintain records as required by DHS for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit such records to verify the actual provision of services and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. DHS may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet these requirements. Refusal to produce documentation may result in denial of submitted claims, recoupment of paid claims, application of intermediate sanctions, or termination from the Medicaid program.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This Update applies to behavioral health day treatment services that members receive on a fee-for-service basis and through BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid SSI, and other managed care programs. For information about managed care implementation of the updated policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO). MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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The ForwardHealth Update is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin HIV Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health within DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.