

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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2023 WISCONSIN ACT 249 DOES NOT AFFECT CRISIS HOSTEL MEDICAID POLICY

[2023 Wisconsin Act 249](#) allows the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to create emergency and permanent rules to certify crisis hostels in Wisconsin under county emergency mental health service programs. These rules were established under the new Wis. Admin. Code ch. [DHS 33](#), which was published in October 2026.

Crisis hostels offer crisis stabilization services in a supported environment where members may spend up to 23 hours. Wisconsin Medicaid has included crisis hostels as an allowable setting for crisis stabilization services since 1997.

Crisis hostels are operated by county emergency mental health service programs and are not enrolled as Medicaid providers. The county emergency mental health service programs can submit claims for reimbursement to Wisconsin Medicaid. **The new emergency rules for crisis hostels will not result in any Medicaid policy changes.**

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Crisis Intervention Providers,
HMOs and Other Managed Care
Programs

The information provided in this
ForwardHealth Update is published in
accordance with 2023 Wisconsin Act 249.



Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This ForwardHealth Update applies to the crisis intervention benefit that members receive only on a fee-for-service basis and through BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid SSI.

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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/.