

# ForwardHealth **ALERT**

Wisconsin serving you



## TO

Home Health Agencies, Individual Medical Supply Providers, Medical Equipment Vendors, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Speech-Language Pathologists, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## REGARDING

Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants May Temporarily Order Home Health Services

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ForwardHealth is temporarily altering certain policy requirements in order to prevent further spread of the disease and effectively treat existing cases. **The following changes are issued in response to COVID-19 pursuant to section 3708 of the CARES Act on a “blanket” basis determined by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. As a result, these changes are in effect with a retroactive date of March 1, 2020, through the end of the national public health emergency, including any extensions. ForwardHealth will publish additional guidance about the topics addressed in this Alert when the temporary policies related to COVID-19 expire.**

### **Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants May Temporarily Order Home Health Services**

ForwardHealth recognizes that increased demand on the direct care services provided by physicians during the COVID-19 public health emergency could cause a delay in the availability of physicians to prescribe, refer, or order home health services in the normal timeframe. Therefore, **until further notice**, ForwardHealth will allow Medicaid-enrolled nurse practitioners and physician assistants to prescribe, refer, or order the following:

- Home health nursing and aide services
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech pathology and audiology services

Billing policy and other requirements for these service areas as described in the [Claims for Services Prescribed, Referred, or Ordered](#) topic (#15737) of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook have not changed. Prescribers should note that they cannot have any affiliation, such as personal or financial affiliations, with the member or agency they are prescribing services for.