

Certification and Ongoing Responsibilities

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Certification and Ongoing Responsibilities: Certification

Topic #3969

Categories of Certification

Wisconsin Medicaid certifies providers in four billing categories. Each billing category has specific designated uses and restrictions. These categories include the following:

- Billing/rendering provider.
- Rendering provider.
- Group billing that requires a rendering provider.
- Group billing that does not require a rendering provider.

Providers should refer to their certification materials or to service-specific information in the Online Handbook to identify what types of certification categories they may apply for or be assigned.

Billing/Rendering Provider

Certification as billing/rendering provider allows providers to identify themselves on claims (and other forms) as either the provider billing for the services or the provider rendering the services.

Rendering Provider

Certification as a rendering provider is given to those providers who practice under the professional supervision of another provider (e.g., physician assistants). Providers with a rendering provider certification cannot submit claims to ForwardHealth directly, but have reimbursement rates established for their provider type. Claims for services provided by a rendering provider must include the supervising provider or group provider as the billing provider.

Group Billing

Certification as a group billing provider is issued primarily as an accounting convenience. This allows a group billing provider to receive one reimbursement, one RA (Remittance Advice), and the 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice) transaction for covered services rendered by individual providers within the group.

Group Billing That Requires a Rendering Provider

Individual providers within certain groups are required to be Medicaid certified because these groups are required to identify the provider who rendered the service on claims. Claims indicating these group billing providers that are submitted without a rendering provider are denied.

Group Billing That Does Not Require a Rendering Provider

Other groups (e.g., physician pathology, radiology groups, and rehabilitation agencies) are not required to indicate a rendering provider on claims.

Group billing providers should refer to their certification materials or to service-specific information in the Online Handbook to determine whether or not a rendering provider is required on claims.

Topic #3285

New Certification Not Available

Wisconsin Medicaid is not certifying new CCOs (community care organizations).

Topic #4457

Provider Addresses

ForwardHealth interChange has the capability of storing the following types of addresses and related information, such as contact information and telephone numbers:

- *Practice location address and related information (formally known as physical address)*. This address is where the provider's office is physically located and where records are normally kept. Additional information for the practice location includes the provider's office telephone number and telephone number for member's use. With limited exceptions, the practice location and telephone number for member's use are published in a provider directory made available to the public.
- *Mailing address*. This address is where ForwardHealth will mail general information and correspondence. Providers should indicate concise address information to aid in proper mail delivery.
- *PA (prior authorization) address*. This address is where ForwardHealth will mail PA information.
- *Financial addresses (formally known as payee address)*. Two separate financial addresses are stored in ForwardHealth interChange. The checks address is where Wisconsin Medicaid will mail paper checks. The 1099 mailing address is where Wisconsin Medicaid will mail IRS Form 1099.

Providers may submit additional address information or modify their current information through the ForwardHealth Portal or by using the [Provider Change of Address or Status \(F-1181 \(10/08\)\)](#) form.

Note: Providers are cautioned that any changes to their practice location on file with ForwardHealth may alter their ZIP+4 code information required on transactions. Providers may verify the ZIP+4 code for their address on the [U.S. Postal Service Web site](#).

Provider addresses are stored separately for each program (i.e., Medicaid, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), and WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program)) for which the provider is certified. Providers should consider this when supplying additional address information and keeping address information current. Providers who are certified for multiple programs and have an address change that applies to more than one program should provide this information for each program. Providers who submit these changes on paper need to submit *one* Provider Change of Address or Status form if changes are applicable for multiple programs.

Documentation

Topic #6277

1099 Miscellaneous Forms

ForwardHealth generates the 1099 Miscellaneous form in January of each year for earnings greater than \$600.00, per Internal Revenue Service regulations. One 1099 Miscellaneous form per financial payer and per tax identification number is generated, regardless of how many provider IDs or NPIs (National Provider Identifier) share the same tax identification number. For example, a provider who conducts business with both Medicaid and WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program) will receive separate 1099 Miscellaneous forms for each program.

The 1099 Miscellaneous forms are sent to the address designated as the "1099 mailing address." The address formerly known as the "payee address" is used as the 1099 mailing address unless a provider has reported a separate address for the 1099 mailing address to ForwardHealth.

Topic #1640

Availability of Records to Authorized Personnel

The DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) has the right to inspect, review, audit, and reproduce provider records pursuant to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(e\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code. The DHCAA periodically requests provider records for compliance audits to match information against ForwardHealth's information on paid claims, PA (prior authorization) requests, and enrollment. These records include, but are not limited to, medical/clinical and financial documents. Providers are obligated to ensure that the records are released to an authorized DHCAA staff member(s).

Wisconsin Medicaid reimburses providers \$0.06 per page for the cost of reproducing records requested by the DHCAA to conduct a compliance audit. A letter of request for records from the DHCAA will be sent to a provider when records are required.

Reimbursement is not made for other reproduction costs included in the provider agreement between the DHCAA and a provider, such as reproduction costs for submitting PA requests and claims.

Also, state-contracted MCOs (Managed Care Organizations), including HMOs (Health Maintenance Organizations) and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs, are not reimbursed for the reproduction costs covered in their contract with the DHS (Department of Health Services).

The reproduction of records requested by the PRO (Peer Review Organization) under contract with the DHCAA is reimbursed at a rate established by the PRO.

Topic #200

Confidentiality

ForwardHealth supports member rights regarding the confidentiality of health care and other related records, including an applicant or member's billing information or medical claim records. An applicant or member has a right to have this information safeguarded, and the provider is obligated to protect that right. Therefore, use or disclosure of any information concerning applicants and members for any purpose not connected with program administration, including contacts with third-party payers that are necessary for pursuing third-party payment and the release of information as ordered by the court, is prohibited unless authorized by the applicant or

member.

To comply with the standards, providers are required to follow the procedures outlined in the Online Handbook to ensure the proper release of this information. ForwardHealth providers, like other health care providers, are also subject to other laws protecting confidentiality of health care information including, but not limited to, the following:

- s. [146.81-146.84](#), Wis. Stats., Wisconsin health care confidentiality of health care information regulations.
- 42 USC s. 1320d - 1320d-8 (federal HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996)) and accompanying regulations.

Any person violating this regulation may be fined an amount from \$25 up to \$500 or imprisoned in the county jail from 10 days up to one year, or both, for each violation.

A provider is not subject to civil or criminal sanctions when releasing records and information regarding applicants or members if such release is for purposes directly related to administration or if authorized in writing by the applicant or member.

Topic #201

Financial Records

According to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(c\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, a provider is required to maintain certain financial records in written or electronic form.

Topic #202

Medical Records

A dated clinician's signature must be included in all medical notes. According to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(b\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, a provider is required to include certain written documentation in a member's medical record.

Topic #199

Member Access to Records

Providers are required to allow members access to their health care records, including those related to ForwardHealth services, maintained by a provider in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, excluding billing statements.

Fees for Health Care Records

Per [s. 146.83](#), Wis. Stats., providers may not charge a fee for providing one set of copies of health care records to members who are enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus programs on the date of the records request. Members who are enrolled on the date of the records request may obtain one free copy of each document in their record. This applies regardless of the member's enrollment status on the DOS (dates of service) contained within the health care records.

Per [s. 146.81\(4\)](#), Wis. Stats., health care records are all records related to the health of a patient prepared by, or under the supervision of, a health care provider.

For information regarding fees that may be charged to members for health care records, such as paper copies, microfiche, and X-rays beyond the first set of copies, refer to [s. 146.83\(1f\)](#), Wis. Stats.

Fee Refunds

If a provider has collected a fee for the first set of copies of health care records provided to an enrolled member, and the member requests a refund, the provider is required to refund the fee to the member.

Topic #203

Preparation and Maintenance of Records

All providers who receive payment from Wisconsin Medicaid, including state-contracted MCOs (Managed Care Organizations), are required to maintain records that fully document the basis of charges upon which all claims for payment are made, according to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code. This required maintenance of records is typically required by any third-party insurance company and is not unique to ForwardHealth.

Topic #204

Record Retention

Providers are required to retain documentation, including medical and financial records, for a period of not less than five years from the date of payment, except RHCs (rural health clinics), who are required to retain records for a minimum of six years from the date of payment.

According to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(d\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, providers are required to retain all evidence of billing information.

Ending participation as a provider does not end a provider's responsibility to retain and provide access to fully maintained records unless an alternative arrangement of record retention and maintenance has been established.

Reviews and Audits

The DHS (Department of Health Services) periodically reviews provider records. The DHS has the right to inspect, review, audit, and photocopy the records. Providers are required to permit access to any requested record(s), whether in written, electronic, or micrographic form.

Topic #205

Records Requests

Requests for billing or medical claim information regarding services reimbursed by BadgerCare Plus may come from a variety of individuals including attorneys, insurance adjusters, and members. Providers are required to notify ForwardHealth by contacting [Provider Services](#) when releasing billing information or medical claim records relating to charges for covered services except the following:

- When the member is a dual eligible (i.e., member is eligible for both Medicare and Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus) and is requesting materials pursuant to *Medicare* regulations.
- When the provider is attempting to exhaust all existing health insurance sources prior to submitting claims to BadgerCare Plus.

Request from a Member or Authorized Person

If the request for a member's billing information or medical claim records is from a member or authorized person acting on behalf of

the member, the provider should send a copy of the requested billing information or medical claim records, along with the name and address of the requester, to the following address:

Department of Health Services
Casualty/Subrogation Program
PO Box 6243
Madison WI 53791

ForwardHealth will process and forward the requested information to the requester.

Request from an Attorney, Insurance Company, or Power of Attorney

If the request for a member's billing information or medical claim records is from an attorney, insurance company, or power of attorney, the provider should do the following:

1. Obtain a release signed by the member or authorized representative.
2. Furnish the requested material to the requester, marked "BILLED TO FORWARDHEALTH" or "TO BE BILLED TO FORWARDHEALTH," with a copy of the release signed by the member or authorized representative. Approval from ForwardHealth is not necessary.
3. Send a copy of the material furnished to the requestor, along with a copy of their original request and medical authorization release to:

Wisconsin Casualty Recovery — HMS
Ste 100
5615 Highpoint Dr
Irving TX 75038-9984

Request for Information About a Member Enrolled in a State-Contracted Managed Care Organization

If the request for a member's billing information or medical claim records is for a member enrolled in a state-contracted MCO (Managed Care Organization), the provider is required to do the following:

1. Obtain a release signed by the member or authorized representative.
2. Send a copy of the letter requesting the information, along with the release signed by the member or authorized representative, directly to the MCO.

The MCO makes most benefit payments and is entitled to any recovery that may be available.

Request for a Statement from a Dual Eligible

If the request is for an itemized statement from a dual eligible, pursuant to HR 2015 (Balanced Budget Act of 1997) s. 4311, a dual eligible has the right to request and receive an itemized statement from his or her Medicare-certified health care provider. The Act requires the provider to furnish the requested information to the member. The Act does *not* require the provider to notify ForwardHealth.

Topic #1646

Release of Billing Information to Government Agencies

Providers are permitted to release member information without informed consent when a written request is made by the DHS

(Department of Health Services) or the federal HHS (Department of Health and Human Services) to perform any function related to program administration, such as auditing, program monitoring, and evaluation.

Providers are authorized under BadgerCare Plus confidentiality regulations to report suspected misuse or abuse of program benefits to the DHS, as well as to provide copies of the corresponding patient health care records.

Ongoing Responsibilities

Topic #220

Accommodating Members with Disabilities

All providers, including ForwardHealth providers, operating an existing public accommodation have requirements under [Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(nondiscrimination\)](#).

Topic #219

Civil Rights Compliance (Nondiscrimination)

Providers are required to comply with all federal laws relating to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and state laws pertinent to ForwardHealth, including the following:

- Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) of 1990.

The previously listed laws require that all health care benefits under ForwardHealth be provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. No applicant or member can be denied participation in ForwardHealth or be denied benefits or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any manner under ForwardHealth on the basis of race, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, religion, age, disability, or association with a person with a disability.

Any of the following actions may be considered discriminatory treatment when based on race, color, national origin, disability, or association with a person with a disability:

- Denial of aid, care, services, or other benefits.
- Segregation or separate treatment.
- Restriction in any way of any advantage or privilege received by others. (There are some program restrictions based on eligibility classifications.)
- Treatment different from that given to others in the determination of eligibility.
- Refusing to provide an oral language interpreter to persons who are considered LEP (limited English proficient) at no cost to the LEP individual in order to provide meaningful access.
- Not providing translation of vital documents to the LEP groups who represent five percent or 1,000, whichever is smaller, in the provider's area of service delivery.

Note: Limiting practice by age is not age discrimination and specializing in certain conditions is not disability discrimination. For further information, see 45 CFR Part 91.

Providers are required to be in compliance with the previously mentioned laws as they are currently in effect or amended. Providers who employ 25 or more employees and receive \$25,000 or more annually in Medicaid reimbursement are also required to comply with the DHS (Department of Health Services) [Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Compliance Plan](#) requirements. Providers that employ less than 25 employees and receive less than \$25,000 annually in Medicaid reimbursement are required to comply by submitting a Letter of Assurance and other appropriate forms.

Providers without Internet access may obtain copies of the DHS Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Compliance Plan (including the

Letter of Assurance and other forms) and instructions by calling the Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Compliance Officer at (608) 266-9372. Providers may also write to the following address:

AA/CRC Office
1 W Wilson St Rm 561
PO Box 7850
Madison WI 53707-7850

For more information on the acts protecting members from discrimination, refer to the civil rights compliance information in the Enrollment and Benefits booklet. The booklet is given to new ForwardHealth members by local county or tribal agencies. Potential ForwardHealth members can request the booklet by calling [Member Services](#).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

This act requires that all benefits be provided on a nondiscriminatory basis and that decisions regarding the provision of services be made without regard to race, color, or national origin. Under this act, the following actions are prohibited, if made on the basis of race, color, or national origin:

- Denying services, financial aid, or other benefits that are provided as a part of a provider's program.
- Providing services in a manner different from those provided to others under the program.
- Aggregating or separately treating clients.
- Treating individuals differently in eligibility determination or application for services.
- Selecting a site that has the effect of excluding individuals.
- Denying an individual's participation as a member of a planning or advisory board.
- Any other method or criteria of administering a program that has the effect of treating or affecting individuals in a discriminatory manner.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

This act prohibits differential treatment, based solely on a person's race, color, sex, national origin, or religion, in the terms and conditions of employment. These conditions or terms of employment are failure or refusal to hire or discharge compensation and benefits, privileges of employment, segregation, classification, and the establishment of artificial or arbitrary barriers to employment.

Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

This act prohibits discrimination in both employment and service delivery based solely on a person's disability.

This act requires the provision of reasonable accommodations where the employer or service provider cannot show that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship in the delivery of the services. A reasonable accommodation is a device or service modification that will allow the disabled person to receive a provider's benefits. An undue hardship is a burden on the program that is not equal to the benefits of allowing that handicapped person's participation.

A handicapped person means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

In addition, Section 504 requires "program accessibility," which may mean building accessibility, outreach, or other measures that allow for full participation of the handicapped individual. In determining program accessibility, the program or activity will be viewed in its entirety. In choosing a method of meeting accessibility requirements, the provider shall give priority to those methods that offer a person who is disabled services that are provided in the most integrated setting appropriate.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Under Title III of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) of 1990, any provider that operates an existing public accommodation has four specific requirements:

1. Remove barriers to make his or her goods and services available to and usable by people with disabilities to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so (i.e., to the extent that needed changes can be accomplished without much difficulty or expense).
2. Provide auxiliary aids and services so that people with sensory or cognitive disabilities have access to effective means of communication, unless doing so would fundamentally alter the operation or result in undue burdens.
3. Modify any policies, practices, or procedures that may be discriminatory or have a discriminatory effect, unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations.
4. Ensure that there are no unnecessary eligibility criteria that tend to screen out or segregate individuals with disabilities or limit their full and equal enjoyment of the place of public accommodation.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The Act, which applies to all ages, permits the use of certain age distinctions and factors other than age that meet the Act's requirements.

Topic #198

Contracted Staff

Under a few circumstances (e.g., personal care, case management services), providers may contract with non-Medicaid certified agencies for services. Providers are legally, programmatically, and fiscally responsible for the services provided by their contractors and their contractor's services.

When contracting services, providers are required to monitor the contracted agency to ensure that the agency is meeting member needs and adhering to ForwardHealth requirements.

Providers are also responsible for informing a contracted agency of ForwardHealth requirements. Providers should refer those with whom they contract for services to ForwardHealth publications for program policies and procedures. ForwardHealth references and publications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- *ForwardHealth Updates*.
- The Online Handbook.

Providers should encourage contracted agencies to visit the ForwardHealth Portal regularly for the most current information.

Topic #216

Examples of Ongoing Responsibilities

Responsibilities for which providers are held accountable are described throughout the Online Handbook. Medicaid-certified providers have responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing the same level and quality of care to ForwardHealth members as private-pay patients.
- Complying with all state and federal laws related to ForwardHealth.
- Obtaining PA (prior authorization) for services, when required.
- Notifying members in advance if a service is not covered by ForwardHealth and the provider intends to collect payment from the member for the service.

- Maintaining accurate medical and billing records.
- Retaining preparation, maintenance, medical, and financial records, along with other documentation, for a period of not less than five years from the date of payment, except rural health clinic providers who are required to retain records for a minimum of six years from the date of payment.
- Billing only for services that were actually provided.
- Allowing a member access to his or her records.
- Monitoring contracted staff.
- Accepting Medicaid reimbursement as payment in full for covered services.
- Keeping provider information (i.e., address, business name) current.
- Notifying ForwardHealth of changes in ownership.
- Responding to Medicaid recertification notifications.
- Safeguarding member confidentiality.
- Verifying member enrollment.
- Keeping up-to-date with changes in program requirements as announced in ForwardHealth publications.

Topic #217

Keeping Information Current

Types of Changes

Providers are required to notify ForwardHealth of changes, including the following:

- Address(es) — practice location and related information, mailing, PA (prior authorization), and/or financial.
- Telephone number, including area code.
- Business name.
- Contact name.
- Federal Tax ID number (IRS (Internal Revenue Service) number).
- Group affiliation.
- Licensure.
- Medicare NPI (National Provider Identifier) for health care providers or Medicare provider number for providers of *non-healthcare* services.
- Ownership.
- Professional certification.
- Provider specialty.
- Supervisor of nonbilling providers.

Failure to notify ForwardHealth of changes may result in the following:

- Incorrect reimbursement.
- Misdirected payment.
- Claim denial.
- Suspension of payments in the event that provider mail is returned to ForwardHealth for lack of a current address.

Entering new information on a claim form or PA request is *not* adequate notification of change.

Address Changes

Healthcare providers who are federally required to have an NPI are cautioned that changes to their practice location address on file with ForwardHealth may alter their ZIP+4 code information that is required on transactions.

Submitting Changes in Address or Status

Once certified, providers are required to submit changes in address or status as they occur, either through the Portal or on paper.

ForwardHealth Portal Submission

After establishing a provider account on the ForwardHealth Portal, providers may make changes to their demographic information online. Changes made through the Portal instantly update the provider's information in ForwardHealth interChange. In addition, since the provider is allowed to make changes directly to his or her information, the process does not require re-entry by ForwardHealth.

Providers should note, however, that the demographic update function of the Portal limits certain providers from modifying some types of information. Providers who are not able to modify certain information through the Portal may make these changes using the [Provider Change of Address or Status \(F-1181 \(10/08\)\)](#) form.

Paper Submission

Providers must use the Provider Change of Address or Status form. Copies of old versions of this form will not be accepted and will be returned to the provider so that he or she may complete the current version of the form or submit changes through the Portal.

Change Notification Letter

When a change is made to certain provider information, either through the use of the Provider Change of Address or Status form or through the Portal, ForwardHealth will send a letter notifying the provider of the change(s) made. Providers should carefully review the Provider File Information Change Summary included with the letter. If any information on this summary is incorrect, providers may do one of the following:

- If the provider made an error while submitting information on the Portal, he or she should correct the information through the Portal.
- If the provider submitted incorrect information using the Provider Change of Address or Status form, he or she should either submit a corrected form or correct the information through the Portal.
- If the provider submitted correct information on the Provider Change of Address or Status form and believes an error was made in processing, he or she can contact [Provider Services](#) to have the error corrected or submit the correct information via the Portal.

Notify Division of Quality Assurance of Changes

Providers licensed or certified by the DQA (Division of Quality Assurance) are required to notify the DQA of changes to physical address, changes of ownership, and facility closures by calling (608) 266-8481.

Providers licensed or certified by the DQA are required to notify the DQA of these changes *before* notifying ForwardHealth. The DQA will then forward the information to ForwardHealth.

Topic #577

Legal Framework

The following laws and regulations provide the legal framework for BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid:

- Federal Law and Regulation:
 - Law — United States Social Security Act; Title XIX (42 US Code ss. 1396 and following) and Title XXI.
 - Regulation — Title 42 CFR Parts 430-498 and Parts 1000-1008 (Public Health).
- Wisconsin Law and Regulation:

- Law — Wisconsin Statutes: [49.43-49.499](#), [49.665](#), and [49.473](#).
- Regulation — Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapters [DHS 101](#), [102](#), [103](#), [104](#), [105](#), [106](#), [107](#), and [108](#).

Laws and regulations may be amended or added at any time. Program requirements may not be construed to supersede the provisions of these laws and regulations.

The information included in the ForwardHealth Portal applies to BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid. BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid are administered by the DHS (Department of Health Services). Within the DHS, the DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) is directly responsible for managing these programs.

Provider Numbers

Topic #4908

Exemptions to Federal National Provider Identifier Provider Number Requirements

Personal care only providers, SMV (specialized medical vehicle) providers, blood banks, and CCOs (Community Care Organizations) are exempt from Federal NPI (National Provider Identifier) requirements.

Topic #536

Provider Numbers

Providers exempt from federal NPI (National Provider Identifier) requirements are to indicate their provider ID for billing, rendering, referring, attending, and prescribing on all paper and electronic claims.

Provider Rights

Topic #208

A Comprehensive Overview of Provider Rights

Medicaid-certified providers have certain rights including, but not limited to, the following:

- Limiting the number of members they serve in a nondiscriminatory way.
- Ending participation in Wisconsin Medicaid.
- Applying for a discretionary waiver or variance of certain rules identified in Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- [Collecting payment from a member under limited circumstances](#).
- Refusing services to a member if the member refuses or fails to present a ForwardHealth identification card. However, possession of a ForwardHealth card does not guarantee enrollment (e.g., the member may not be enrolled, may be enrolled only for limited benefits, or the ForwardHealth card may be invalid). Providers may confirm the current enrollment of the member by using one of the [EVS \(Enrollment Verification System\) methods](#), including calling [Provider Services](#).

Topic #207

Ending Participation

Providers other than home health agencies and nursing facilities may terminate participation in ForwardHealth according to [DHS 106.05](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Providers choosing to withdraw should promptly notify their members to give them ample time to find another provider.

When withdrawing, the provider is required to do the following:

- Provide a written notice of the decision at least 30 days in advance of the termination.
- Indicate the effective date of termination.

Providers will not receive reimbursement for nonemergency services provided on and after the effective date of termination. Voluntary termination notices can be sent to the following address:

ForwardHealth
 Provider Maintenance
 6406 Bridge Rd
 Madison WI 53784-0006

If the provider fails to specify an effective date in the notice of termination, ForwardHealth may terminate the provider on the date the notice is received.

Topic #209

Hearing Requests

A provider who wishes to contest a DHS (Department of Health Services) action or inaction for which due process is required under s. [227](#), Wis. Stats., may request a hearing by writing to the DHA (Division of Hearings and Appeals).

A provider who wishes to contest the DHCAA's (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) notice of intent to recover payment (e.g., to recoup for overpayments discovered in an audit by DHCAA) is required to request a hearing on the matter within the time period specified in the notice. The request, which must be in writing, should briefly summarize the provider's basis for contesting the DHS decision to withhold payment.

Refer to [DHS 106](#), Wis. Admin. Code, for detailed instructions on how to file an appeal.

If a timely request for a hearing is not received, the DHS may recover those amounts specified in its original notice from future amounts owed to the provider.

Note: Providers are not entitled to administrative hearings for billing disputes.

Topic #210

Limiting the Number of Members

If providers choose to limit the number of members they see, they cannot accept a member as a private-pay patient. Providers should instead refer the member to another ForwardHealth provider.

Persons applying for or receiving benefits are protected against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or association with a person with a disability.

Topic #206

Requesting Discretionary Waivers and Variances

In rare instances, a provider or member may apply for, and the DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) will consider applications for, a discretionary waiver or variance of certain rules in [DHS 102](#), [103](#), [104](#), [105](#), [107](#), and [108](#), Wis. Admin. Code. Rules that are not considered for a discretionary waiver or variance are included in [DHS 106.13](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Waivers and variances are not available to permit coverage of services that are either expressly identified as noncovered or are not expressly mentioned in DHS 107, Wis. Admin. Code.

Requirements

A request for a waiver or variance may be made at any time; however, all applications must be made in writing to the DHCAA. All applications are required to specify the following:

- The rule from which the waiver or variance is requested.
- The time period for which the waiver or variance is requested.
- If the request is for a variance, the specific alternative action proposed by the provider.
- The reasons for the request.
- Justification that all requirements for a discretionary waiver or variance would be satisfied.

The DHCAA may also require additional information from the provider or the member prior to acting on the request.

Application

The DHCAA may grant a discretionary waiver or variance if it finds that all of the following requirements are met:

- The waiver or variance will not adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of any member.
- Either the strict enforcement of a requirement would result in unreasonable hardship on the provider or on a member, or an alternative to a rule is in the interests of better care or management. An alternative to a rule would include a new concept, method, procedure or technique, new equipment, new personnel qualifications, or the implementation of a pilot project.
- The waiver or variance is consistent with all applicable state and federal statutes and federal regulations.
- Federal financial participation is available for all services under the waiver or variance, consistent with the Medicaid state plan, the federal CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), and other applicable federal program requirements.
- Services relating to the waiver or variance are medically necessary.

To apply for a discretionary waiver or variance, providers are required to send their application to the following address:

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
Waivers and Variances
PO Box 309
Madison WI 53701-0309

Recertification

Topic #8517

An Overview

Each year approximately one-third of all Medicaid-certified providers undergo recertification. During provider recertification, providers update their information and sign the Wisconsin Medicaid Provider Agreement and Acknowledgement of Terms of Participation. Providers are required to complete the provider recertification process to continue their participation with Wisconsin Medicaid. For most providers, recertification will be conducted online at the ForwardHealth Portal. Providers will be notified when they need to be recertified and will be provided with instructions on how to complete the recertification process.

Topic #8521

Checking the Status of a Recertification Application

Providers may check the status of their recertification on the [ForwardHealth Portal](#) by entering the ATN (application tracking number) from the Provider Recertification Notice and pressing "Search."

Providers will receive one of the following status responses:

- "Approved." ForwardHealth has reviewed the recertification materials and all requirements have been met. ForwardHealth is completing updates to provider files.
- "Awaiting Additional Info." ForwardHealth has reviewed the recertification materials and has requested additional information from the provider. Providers will receive a letter via mail when additional materials or information are required to complete processing of the recertification materials.
- "Awaiting Follow-On Documents." ForwardHealth requires additional paper documents to process the recertification. After the provider has submitted recertification information online via the Portal, the final screen will list additional documents the provider must mail to ForwardHealth. ForwardHealth cannot complete processing until these documents are received. This status is primarily used for SMV (specialized medical vehicle) provider recertification.
- "Denied." The provider's recertification has been denied.
- "Failure to Recertify." The provider has not recertified by the established recertification deadline.
- "In Process." The recertification materials are in the process of being reviewed by ForwardHealth.
- "Paper Requested." The provider requested a paper recertification application and ForwardHealth has not received the paper application yet.
- "Recert Initiated." The Provider Recertification Notice and PIN (personal identification number) letter have been sent to the provider. The provider has not started the recertification process yet.
- "Recertified." The provider has successfully completed recertification. There are no actions necessary by the provider.
- "Referred To DHS." ForwardHealth has referred the provider recertification materials to the State Certification Specialist for recertification determination.

Topic #8519

Notification Letters

Providers undergoing recertification will receive two important letters in the mail from ForwardHealth:

- The Provider Recertification Notice. This is the first notice to providers. The Provider Recertification Notice contains

identifying information about the provider who is required to complete recertification, the recertification deadline, and the ATN (application tracking number) assigned to the provider. The ATN is used when logging in to the ForwardHealth Portal to complete recertification and also serves as the tracking number when checking the status of the provider's recertification.

- The PIN (personal identification number) letter. Providers will receive this notice a few days after the Provider Recertification Notice. The PIN letter will contain a recertification PIN and instructions on logging in to the Portal to complete recertification.

The letters are sent to the mailing address on file with Wisconsin Medicaid. Providers should read these letters carefully and keep them for reference. The letters contain information necessary to log in to the secure Recertification area of the Portal to complete recertification. If a provider needs to replace one of the letters, the recertification process will be delayed.

Topic #8523

Paper Recertification Applications

Providers who do not have Internet access or who are not able to complete recertification via the ForwardHealth Portal should contact [Provider Services](#) to request a paper recertification application. Providers who request a paper application are required to complete the recertification process on paper and not online via the Portal to avoid duplicate recertification submissions.

Topic #8522

Recertification Completed by an Authorized Representative

A provider has several options for submitting information to the DHS (Department of Health Services), including electronic and Web-based submission methodologies that require the input of secure and discrete access codes but not written provider signatures.

The provider has sole responsibility for maintaining the privacy and security of any access code the provider uses to submit information to the DHS, and any individual who submits information using such access code does so on behalf of the provider, regardless of whether the provider gave the access code to the individual or had knowledge that the individual knew the access code or used it to submit information to the DHS.

Topic #8520

Recertification on the ForwardHealth Portal

Logging in to the Secure Recertification Area of the Portal

Once a provider has received the Provider Recertification Notice and PIN (personal identification number) letter, the provider may log in to the Recertification area of the ForwardHealth Portal to begin the recertification process.

The Recertification area of the Portal is not part of a Provider Portal account. Providers do not need a Provider Portal account to participate in recertification via the Portal. Providers are not able to access the Recertification area of the Portal by logging in to a Provider Portal account; providers must use the ATN (application tracking number) from the Provider Recertification Notice and PIN from the PIN letter to log in to the Recertification area of the Portal.

The Portal will guide providers through the recertification process. On each screen, providers are required to complete or verify information.

Completing Recertification

Providers are required to complete all of the recertification screens in a single session. The Portal will not save a provider's partial progress through the recertification screens. If a provider does not complete all of the recertification screens in a single session, the provider will be required to start over when logging in to the Recertification area of the Portal again.

It is important to read the final screen carefully and follow all instructions before exiting the recertification process. After exiting the recertification process, providers will not be able to retrieve the provider recertification documents for their records.

The final screen of the recertification process gives providers the option to print and save a PDF (Portable Document Format) version of the recertification information submitted to ForwardHealth. Providers whose recertification is approved immediately will also be able to print a copy of the approval letter and the Provider Agreement signed by the DHS (Department of Health Services).

In other cases, the final screen will give providers additional instructions to complete recertification, such as the following:

- The recertification application requires review. Providers are mailed the approval letter and other materials when the application is approved.
- Some providers may be required to send additional paper documentation to ForwardHealth.

Sanctions

Topic #211

Intermediate Sanctions

According to [DHS 106.08\(3\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, the DHS (Department of Health Services) may impose intermediate sanctions on providers who violate certain requirements. Common examples of sanctions that the DHS may apply include the following:

- Review of the provider's claims before payment.
- Referral to the appropriate peer review organization, licensing authority, or accreditation organization.
- Restricting the provider's participation in BadgerCare Plus.
- Requiring the provider to correct deficiencies identified in a DHS audit.

Prior to imposing any alternative sanction under this section, the DHS will issue a written notice to the provider in accordance with [DHS 106.12](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Any sanction imposed by the DHS may be appealed by the provider under DHS 106.12, Wis. Admin. Code. Providers may appeal a sanction by writing to the DHA (Division of Hearings and Appeals).

Topic #212

Involuntary Termination

The DHS (Department of Health Services) may suspend or terminate the Medicaid certification of any provider according to [DHS 106.06](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

The suspension or termination may occur if both of the following apply:

- The DHS finds that any of the grounds for provider termination are applicable.
- The suspension or termination will not deny members access to services.

Reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing within 15 days will be given to each provider whose certification is terminated by the DHS. Refer to [DHS 106.07](#), Wis. Admin. Code, for detailed information regarding possible sanctions.

In cases where Medicare enrollment is required as a condition of certification with Wisconsin Medicaid, termination from Medicare results in automatic termination from Wisconsin Medicaid.

Topic #213

Sanctions for Collecting Payment from Members

Under state and federal laws, if a provider inappropriately collects payment from an enrolled member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, that provider may be subject to program sanctions including termination of Medicaid certification. In addition, the provider may also be fined not more than \$25,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, pursuant to 42 USC s. 1320a-7b(d) or [49.49\(3m\)](#), Wis. Stats.

There may be narrow exceptions on when providers may [collect payment from members](#).

Topic #214

Withholding Payments

The DHS (Department of Health Services) may withhold full or partial Medicaid provider payments without prior notification if, as the result of any review or audit, the DHS finds reliable evidence of fraud or willful misrepresentation.

"Reliable evidence" of fraud or willful misrepresentation includes, but is not limited to, the filing of criminal charges by a prosecuting attorney against the provider or one of the provider's agents or employees.

The DHS is required to send the provider a written notice within five days of taking this action. The notice will generally set forth the allegations without necessarily disclosing specific information about the investigation.

Claims

2

Archive Date:06/01/2011

Claims:Adjustment Requests

Topic #814

Allowed Claim

An allowed claim (or adjustment request) contains at least one service that is reimbursable. Allowed claims display on the Paid Claims Section of the RA (Remittance Advice) with a dollar amount greater than "0" in the allowed amount fields. Only an allowed claim, which is also referred to as a claim in an allowed status, may be adjusted.

Topic #815

Denied Claim

A claim that was completely denied is considered to be in a denied status. To receive reimbursement for a claim that was completely denied, it must be corrected and submitted as a new claim.

Topic #512

Electronic

837 Transaction

Even if the original claim was submitted on paper, providers may submit electronic adjustment requests using an [837 \(837 Health Care Claim\) transaction](#).

Provider Electronic Solutions Software

The DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) offers electronic billing software at no cost to providers. The PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software allows providers to submit electronic adjustment requests using an 837 transaction. To obtain PES software, providers may download it from the [ForwardHealth Portal](#). For assistance installing and using PES software, providers may call the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#).

Portal Claim Adjustments

Providers can submit claim adjustments via the Portal. Providers may use the search function to find the specific claim to adjust. Once found, the provider can alter the claim to reflect the desired change and resubmit it to ForwardHealth. Any claim ForwardHealth has paid can be adjusted and resubmitted on the Portal, regardless of how the claim was originally submitted.

Topic #513

Follow-Up

Providers who believe an error has occurred or their issues have not been satisfactorily resolved have the following options:

- Submit a new adjustment request if the previous adjustment request is in an allowed status.

- Submit a new claim for the services if the adjustment request is in a denied status.
- Contact [Provider Services](#) for assistance with paper adjustment requests.
- Contact the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#) for assistance with electronic adjustment requests.

Topic #515

Paper

Paper adjustment requests must be submitted using the [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#) form.

Topic #816

Processing

Within 30 days of receipt, ForwardHealth generally reprocesses the original claim with the changes indicated on the adjustment request and responds on ForwardHealth remittance information.

Topic #514

Purpose

After reviewing both the claim and ForwardHealth [remittance information](#), a provider may determine that an allowed claim needs to be adjusted. Providers may file adjustment requests for reasons including the following:

- To correct billing or processing errors.
- To correct inappropriate payments (overpayments and underpayments).
- To add and delete services.
- To supply additional information that may affect the amount of reimbursement.
- To request professional consultant review (e.g., medical, dental).

Providers may initiate reconsideration of an allowed claim by submitting an adjustment request to ForwardHealth.

Topic #4857

Submitting Paper Attachments with Electronic Claim Adjustments

Providers may submit [paper attachments to accompany electronic claim adjustments](#). Providers should refer to their [companion documents](#) for directions on indicating that a paper attachment will be submitted by mail.

Good Faith Claims

Topic #518

Definition

A good faith claim may be submitted when a claim is denied due to a discrepancy between the member's enrollment information in the claims processing system and the member's actual enrollment. If a member presents a temporary card or an EE (Express Enrollment) card, BadgerCare Plus encourages providers to check the member's enrollment and, if the enrollment is not on file yet, make a photocopy of the member's temporary card or EE card. If Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) indicates that the member is not enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, providers should check enrollment again in two days or wait one week to submit a claim to ForwardHealth. If the EVS indicates that the member still is not enrolled after two days, or if the claim is denied with an enrollment-related EOB (Explanation of Benefits) code, providers should contact [Provider Services](#) for assistance.

Overpayments

Topic #528

Adjustment Request vs. Cash Refund

Except for nursing home and hospital providers, cash refunds may be submitted to ForwardHealth in lieu of an adjustment request. However, whenever possible, providers should submit an adjustment request for returning overpayments since both of the following are true:

- A cash refund does not provide documentation for provider records as an adjustment request does. (Providers may be required to submit proof of the refund at a later time.)
- Providers are not able to further adjust the claim after a cash refund is done if an additional reason for adjustment is determined.

Topic #532

Adjustment Requests

When correcting an overpayment through an adjustment request, providers may submit the adjustment request electronically or on paper. Providers should not submit provider-based billing claims through adjustment processing channels.

ForwardHealth processes an adjustment request if the provider is all of the following:

- Medicaid certified on the DOS (date of service).
- Not currently under investigation for Medicaid fraud or abuse.
- Not subject to any intermediate sanctions under [DHS 106.08](#), Wis. Admin. Code.
- Claiming and receiving ForwardHealth reimbursement in sufficient amounts to allow the recovery of the overpayment within a very limited period of time. The period of time is usually no more than 60 days.

Electronic Adjustment Requests

ForwardHealth will deduct the overpayment when the [electronic adjustment request](#) is processed. Providers should use the [companion document](#) for the appropriate 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transaction when submitting adjustment requests.

Paper Adjustment Requests

For [paper adjustment requests](#), providers are required to do the following:

- Submit an [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#) form through normal processing channels (not Timely Filing), regardless of the DOS.
- Indicate the reason for the overpayment, such as a duplicate reimbursement or an error in the quantity indicated on the claim.

After the paper adjustment request is processed, ForwardHealth will deduct the overpayment from future reimbursement amounts.

Topic #533

Cash Refunds

When submitting a personal check to ForwardHealth for an overpayment, providers should include a copy of the RA (Remittance Advice) for the claim to be adjusted and highlight the affected claim on the RA. If a copy of the RA is not available, providers should indicate the ICN (internal control number), the NPI (National Provider Identifier) (if applicable), and the payee ID from the RA for the claim to be adjusted. The check should be sent to the following address:

ForwardHealth
Financial Services Cash Unit
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0004

Topic #531

ForwardHealth-Initiated Adjustments

ForwardHealth may initiate an adjustment when a retroactive rate increase occurs or when an improper or excess payment has been made. ForwardHealth has the right to pursue overpayments resulting from computer or clerical errors that occurred during claims processing.

If ForwardHealth initiates an adjustment to recover overpayments, ForwardHealth remittance information will include details of the adjustment in the Claims Adjusted Section of the paper RA (Remittance Advice).

Topic #530

Requirements

As stated in [DHS 106.04\(5\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, the provider is required to refund the overpayment within 30 days of the date of the overpayment if a provider receives overpayment for a claim because of duplicate reimbursement from ForwardHealth or other health insurance sources.

In the case of all other overpayments (e.g., incorrect claims processing, incorrect maximum allowable fee paid), providers are required to return the overpayment within 30 days of the date of discovery.

The return of overpayments may occur through one of the following methods:

- Return of overpayment through the adjustment request process.
- Return of overpayment with a cash refund.
- Return of overpayment with a voided claim.
- ForwardHealth-initiated adjustments.

Note: Nursing home and hospital providers may not return an overpayment with a cash refund. These providers routinely receive retroactive rate adjustments, requiring ForwardHealth to reprocess previously paid claims to reflect a new rate. This is not possible after a cash refund is done.

Topic #8417

Voiding Claims

Providers may void claims on the ForwardHealth Portal to return overpayments. This way of returning overpayments may be a more

efficient and timely way for providers as a voided claim is a complete recoupment of the payment for the entire claim. Once a claim is voided, the claim can no longer be adjusted; however, the services indicated on the voided claim may be resubmitted on a new claim.

Responses

Topic #540

An Overview of the Remittance Advice

The RA (Remittance Advice) provides important information about the processing of claims and adjustment requests as well as additional financial transactions such as refunds or recoupment amounts withheld. ForwardHealth provides [electronic RAs](#) to providers on their secure ForwardHealth Portal accounts when at least one claim, adjustment request, or financial transaction is processed. RAs are generated from the appropriate ForwardHealth program when at least one claim, adjustment request, or financial transaction is processed. An RA is generated regardless of how a claim or adjustment is submitted (electronically or on paper). Generally, payment information is released and an RA is generated by ForwardHealth no sooner than the first state business day following the financial cycle.

Providers are required to access their secure [ForwardHealth provider Portal account](#) to obtain their RA.

RAs are accessible to providers in a TXT (text) format via the secure Provider area of the Portal. Providers are also able to download the RA from their secure provider Portal account in a new [CSV \(comma-separated values\)](#) format.

Topic #5092

Provider Number on the Remittance Advice

Providers that are exempt from NPI (National Provider Identifier) requirements will see their provider number listed as the "Payee ID" on their RAs.

Topic #4818

Calculating Totals on the Remittance Advice for Adjusted and Paid Claims

The total amounts for all adjusted or paid claims reported on the RA (Remittance Advice) appear at the end of the adjusted claims and paid claims sections. ForwardHealth calculates the total for each section by adding the net amounts for all claims listed in that section. Cutback amounts are subtracted from the allowed amount to reach the total reimbursement for the claims.

Note: Some cutbacks that are reported in detail lines will appear as EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes and will not display an exact dollar amount.

Topic #534

Claim Number

Each claim or adjustment request received by ForwardHealth is assigned a unique claim number (also known as the ICN (internal control number)). However, denied claims submitted using the NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) 5.1 transaction are not assigned an ICN.

Interpreting Claim Numbers

The [ICN consists of 13 digits that identify valuable information](#) (e.g., the date the claim was received by ForwardHealth, how the claim was submitted) about the claim or adjustment request.

Topic #535

Claim Status

ForwardHealth generally processes claims and adjustment requests within 30 days of receipt. Providers may check the status of a claim or adjustment request using the [AVR \(Automated Voice Response\)](#) system or the 276/277 (276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response) transaction.

If a claim or adjustment request does not appear in claim status within 45 days of the date of submission, a copy of the original claim or adjustment request should be resubmitted through normal processing channels.

Topic #644

ClaimCheck Review

Information is available for [DOS \(dates of service\) before September 1, 2010](#).

ForwardHealth monitors all professional claims for compliance with reimbursement policy using an automated procedure coding review software known as McKesson ClaimCheck[®]. ClaimCheck reviews claims submitted for billing inconsistencies and errors during claims processing. Insurance companies, Medicare, and other state Medicaid programs use similar software.

EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes specific to the ClaimCheck review appear in the TXT (Text) RA (Remittance Advice) file and in the electronic 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice) transactions.

ClaimCheck review does not change Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus policy on covered services but monitors compliance with policy more closely and reimburses providers appropriately.

Areas Monitored by ClaimCheck

ForwardHealth uses ClaimCheck software to monitor the following situations:

- Unbundled procedures.
- Incidental/integral procedures.
- Mutually exclusive procedures.
- Medical visit billing errors.
- Preoperative and postoperative billing errors.
- Medically obsolete procedures.
- Assistant surgeon billing errors.
- Gender-related billing errors.

ClaimCheck will not review claims that have been denied for general billing errors, such as an invalid member identification number or an invalid or missing provider number. Providers will need to correct the general billing error and resubmit the claim, at which point ClaimCheck will review the claim.

Unbundled Procedures

Unbundling occurs when two or more procedure codes are used to describe a procedure that may be better described by a single, more comprehensive procedure code. ClaimCheck considers the single, most appropriate procedure code for reimbursement when unbundling is detected.

If certain procedure codes are submitted, ClaimCheck rebundles them into the single most appropriate procedure code. For example, if a provider submits a claim with procedure codes 12035 (Repair, intermediate, wounds of scalp, axillae, trunk and/or extremities [excluding hands and feet]; 12.6 cm to 20.0 cm) and 12036 (Repair, intermediate, wounds of scalp, axillae, trunk and/or extremities [excluding hands and feet]; 20.1 cm to 30.0 cm), ClaimCheck rebundles them to procedure code 12037 (Repair, intermediate, wounds of scalp, axillae, trunk and/or extremities [excluding hands and feet]; over 30.0 cm).

ClaimCheck will also total billed amounts for individual procedures. For example, if the provider bills three procedures at \$20, \$30, and \$25, ClaimCheck rebundles them into a single procedure code, adds the three amounts, and calculates the billed amount for that rebundled code at \$75. Then, ForwardHealth reimburses the provider either the lesser of the billed amounts or the maximum allowable fee for that rebundled procedure code.

Incidental/Integral Procedures

Incidental procedures are those procedures performed at the same time as a more complex primary procedure. These require few additional provider resources and are generally not considered necessary to the performance of the primary procedure. For example, the removal of an asymptomatic appendix is considered an incidental procedure when done during hysterectomy surgery.

Integral procedures are those procedures performed as part of a more complex primary procedure. For example, when a member undergoes a transurethral incision of the prostate, the cystourethroscopy (procedure code 52000) is considered integral to the performance of the prostate procedure and would be denied.

When a procedure is either incidental or integral to a major procedure, ClaimCheck considers only the primary procedure for reimbursement.

Mutually Exclusive Procedures

Mutually exclusive procedures are procedures that would not be performed on a single member on the same day or that use different codes to describe the same type of procedure.

For example, procedure code 58260 (Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less) and procedure code 58150 (Total abdominal hysterectomy [corpus and cervix], with or without removal of tube[s], with or without removal of ovary[s]) are mutually exclusive — either one or the other, but not both procedures, is performed.

When two or more procedures are mutually exclusive, ForwardHealth considers for reimbursement the procedure code with the highest provider-billed amount and denies the other code.

Medical Visit Billing Errors

Medical visit billing errors occur if E&M (evaluation and management) services are reported separately when a substantial diagnostic or therapeutic procedure is performed. Under CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) guidelines, most E&M procedures are not allowed to be reported separately when a substantial diagnostic or therapeutic procedure is performed.

Medical visit edits monitor services included in CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) procedure ranges 92002-92019, 99024 (postoperative follow-up), 99026-99058 (special services), 99201-99456 (E&M codes) and HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) codes S0620, S0621 (routine ophthalmological examinations).

ClaimCheck monitors medical visits based on the type of E&M service (i.e., initial or new patient; or follow-up or established patient services) and the complexity (i.e., major or minor) of the accompanying procedure.

For example, if a provider submits procedures 22630 (Arthrodesis, posterior interbody technique, including laminectomy and/or discectomy to prepare interspace [other than for decompression], single interspace; lumbar) and 99221 (Initial hospital care, per day), ClaimCheck denies procedure 99221 as a visit when submitted with procedure 22630 with the same DOS (date of service). Procedure code 22630 is a major procedure with a 90-day global surgical period.

Preoperative and Postoperative Billing Errors

Preoperative and postoperative billing errors occur when E&M services are billed with surgical procedures during their preoperative and postoperative periods. ClaimCheck bases the preoperative and postoperative periods on designations in the CMS National Physician Fee Schedule.

For example, if a provider submits procedure code 99212 (Office or outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient) with a DOS of 11/02/08 and procedure 27750 (Closed treatment of tibial shaft fracture [with or without fibular fracture]; without manipulation) with a DOS of 11/03/08, ClaimCheck will deny procedure code 99212 as a preoperative visit because it is submitted with a DOS one day prior to the DOS for procedure code 27750.

Medically Obsolete Procedures

Obsolete procedures are procedures that are no longer performed under prevailing medical standards. Claims for procedures designated as obsolete are denied.

Assistant Surgeon Billing Errors

ClaimCheck development and maintenance of assistant surgeon values includes two designations, *always* and *never*. ClaimCheck uses the ACS (American College of Surgeons) as its primary source for determining assistant surgeon designations. ForwardHealth's list of procedure codes allowable with an assistant surgeon designation is consistent with ClaimCheck.

For example, if a provider bills procedure code 10040 (Acne surgery [eg, marsupialization, opening or removal of multiple milia, comedones, cysts, pustules]) with modifier -80 (assistant surgeon), ClaimCheck determines that the procedure does not require an assistant surgeon and denies the procedure code.

Gender-Related Billing Errors

Gender-related billing errors occur when a provider submits a gender-specific procedure for a patient of the opposite sex. ForwardHealth has adopted ClaimCheck's designation of gender for procedure codes.

For example, if a provider submits procedure code 58150 (Total abdominal hysterectomy [corpus and cervix], with or without removal of tube[s], with or without removal of ovary[s]) for a male, ClaimCheck will deny the procedure based on the fact that procedure code 58150 is a female gender-specific procedure.

Payments Denied as a Result of the ClaimCheck Review

Providers should take the following steps if they are uncertain about why particular services on a claim were denied:

- Review ForwardHealth remittance information for the specific reason for the denial.
- Review the claim submitted to ensure all information is accurate and complete.
- Consult current CPT and HCPCS publications to make sure proper coding instructions were followed.
- Consult current ForwardHealth publications to make sure current policy and billing instructions were followed.
- Call Provider Services for further information or explanation.

If a provider disagrees with ClaimCheck's determination, the provider may resubmit the claim with supporting documentation to

Provider Service Written Correspondence. If the original claim is in an allowed status, the provider may submit an [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#), with supporting documentation and the words, "medical consultant review requested" written on the form, to Provider Services Written Correspondence.

Topic #4746

Cutback Fields on the Remittance Advice for Adjusted and Paid Claims

Cutback fields indicate amounts that reduce the allowed amount of the claim. Examples of cutbacks include other insurance, member copayment, spenddown amounts, deductibles, or patient liability amounts. Amounts indicated in a cutback field are subtracted from the total allowed reimbursement.

Providers should note that cutback amounts indicated in the header of an adjusted or paid claim section apply only to the header. Not all cutback fields that apply to a detail line (such as copayments or spenddowns) will be indicated on the RA (Remittance Advice); the detail line EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes inform providers that an amount was deducted from the total reimbursement but may not indicate the exact amount.

Note: Providers who receive [835 \(835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice\)](#) transactions will be able to see all deducted amounts on paid and adjusted claims.

Topic #537

Electronic Remittance Information

Providers are required to access their secure [ForwardHealth provider Portal account](#) to obtain their RAs (Remittance Advices). Electronic RAs on the Portal are not available to the following providers because these providers are not allowed to establish Portal accounts by their Provider Agreements:

- In-state emergency providers.
- Out-of-state providers.
- Out-of-country providers.

RAs are accessible to providers in a TXT (text) format or from a CSV (comma-separated values) file via the secure Provider area of the Portal.

Text File

The TXT format file is generated by financial payer and listed by RA number and RA date on the secure provider Portal account under the "View Remittance Advices" menu. RAs from the last 97 days are available in the TXT format. When a user clicks on an RA, a pop-up window displays asking if the user would like to "Open" or "Save" the file. If "Open" is chosen, the document opens based on the user's application associated with opening text documents. If "Save" is chosen, the "Save As" window will open. The user can then browse to a location on their computer or network to save the document.

Users should be aware that "Word Wrap" must be turned off in the Notepad application. If it is not, it will cause distorted formatting. Also, users may need to resize the Notepad window in order to view all of the data. Providers wanting to print their files must ensure that the "Page Setup" application is set to the "Landscape" setting; otherwise the printed document will not contain all the information.

Comma-Separated Values Downloadable File

A CSV file is a file format accepted by a wide range of computer software programs. Downloadable CSV-formatted RAs allow users the benefits of building a customized RA specific to their use and saving the file to their computer. The CSV file on a provider's Portal appears as linear text separated by commas until it is downloaded into a compatible software program. Once downloaded, the file may be saved to a user's computer and the data manipulated, as desired.

To access the CSV file, providers should select the "View Remittance Advices" menu at the top of the provider's Portal home page.

The CSV files are generated per financial payer and listed by RA number and RA date. A separate CSV file is listed for the last 10 RAs. Providers can select specific sections of the RA by date to download making the information easy to read and organize.

The CSV file may be downloaded into a Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet or into another compatible software program, such as Microsoft Office Access or OpenOffice 2.2.1. OpenOffice is a free software program obtainable from the Internet. Google Docs and ZDNet also offer free spreadsheet applications. Microsoft Office Excel, a widely used program, is a spreadsheet application for Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X. For maximum file capabilities when downloading the CSV file, the 1995 Office Excel for Windows (Version 7.0) included in Office 95 or a newer version is recommended. Earlier versions of Microsoft Office Excel will work with the CSV file; however, files exceeding 65,000 lines may need to be split into smaller files when downloading using earlier versions. Microsoft Office Access can manage larger data files.

The [CSV User Guide](#) includes instructions about Microsoft Office Excel functions that can be used to manipulate RA data downloaded from the CSV file.

835

Electronic remittance information may be obtained using the [835 \(835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice\)](#) transaction. It provides useful information regarding the processing of claims and adjustment requests, which includes the status or action taken on a claim, claim detail, adjustment, or adjustment detail for all claims and adjustments processed that week, regardless of whether they are reimbursed or denied. However, a claim submitted by a pharmacy using the NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) 5.1 transaction will not appear on remittance information if the claim is denied by ForwardHealth. ForwardHealth releases payment information to the 835 no sooner than on the first state business day following the financial cycle.

Provider Electronic Solutions Software

The DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) offers electronic billing software at no cost to the provider. The PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software allows providers to download the 835 transaction. To obtain PES software, providers may download it from the [ForwardHealth Portal](#). For assistance installing and using PES software, providers may call the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#).

Topic #4822

Explanation of Benefit Codes in the Claim Header and in the Detail Lines

EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes are four-digit numeric codes specific to ForwardHealth that correspond to a printed message about the status or action taken on a claim, claim detail, adjustment, or adjustment detail.

The claim processing sections of the RA (Remittance Advice) report EOBs for the claim header information and detail lines, as appropriate. Header information is a summary of the information from the claim, such as the DOS (date of service) that the claim covers or the total amount paid for the claim. Detail lines report information from the claim details, such as specific procedure codes or revenue codes, the amount billed for each code, and the amount paid for a detail line item.

Header EOBs are listed below the claim header information and pertain only to the header information. Detail line EOBs are listed

after each detail line and pertain only to the detail line.

TEXT File

EOB codes and descriptions are listed in the RA information in the TXT (text) file.

CSV File

EOB codes are listed in the RA information from the CSV (comma-separated values) file; however, the printed messages corresponding to the codes do not appear in the file. The [EOB Code Listing](#) matching standard EOB codes to explanation text is available on the Portal for reference.

Topic #4820

Identifying the Claims Reported on the Remittance Advice

The RA (Remittance Advice) reports the first 12 characters of the MRN (medical record number) and/or a PCN (patient control number), also referred to as Patient Account Number, submitted on the original claims. The MRN and PCN fields are located beneath the member's name on any section of the RA that reports claims processing information.

Providers are strongly encouraged to enter these numbers on claims. Entering the MRN and/or the PCN on claims may assist providers in identifying the claims reported on the RA.

Note: Claims processing sections for dental and drug claims do not include the MRN or the PCN.

Topic #11537

National Correct Coding Initiative

As part of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) are required to promote correct coding and control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment of claims under Medicaid. The NCCI (National Correct Coding Initiative) is the CMS response to this requirement. The CMS developed its coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices, and a review of current coding practices. The NCCI includes the creation and implementation of claims processing edits to ensure correct coding on claims submitted for Medicaid reimbursement.

ForwardHealth is required to implement the NCCI in order to monitor all professional claims submitted with CPT or HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) procedure codes for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and Family Planning Only Services for compliance with the following NCCI edits:

- MUE (Medically Unlikely Edits), or units-of-service detail edits, for claims submitted on and after March 21, 2011, regardless of DOS (date(s) of service).
- Procedure-to-procedure detail edits for claims submitted on and after April 1, 2011, regardless of DOS.

The NCCI editing will occur in addition to/along with current procedure code review and editing completed by McKesson ClaimCheck[®] and in ForwardHealth interChange.

Medically Unlikely Detail Edits

MUE, or units-of-service detail edits, define for each CPT/HCPCS code the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single member on a single DOS. If a detail on a claim is denied for MUE, providers will receive an EOB (Explanation of Benefits) code on the RA (Remittance Advice) indicating that the detail was denied due to NCCI.

An example of an MUE would be procedure code 11100 (i.e., biopsy of skin lesion). This procedure is medically unlikely to occur more than once; therefore, if it is billed with units greater than one, the detail will be denied.

Procedure-to-Procedure Detail Edits

Procedure-to-procedure detail edits define pairs of CPT/HCPCS codes that should not be reported together on the same DOS for a variety of reasons. This edit applies across details on a single claim or across different claims. For example, an earlier claim that was paid may be denied and recouped if a more complete code is billed for the same DOS on a separate claim. If a detail on a claim is denied for procedure-to-procedure edit, providers will receive an EOB code on the RA indicating that the detail was denied due to NCCI.

An example of a procedure-to-procedure edit would be procedure code 11451 (i.e., removal of a sweat gland lesion). This is a more complex service than procedure code 93000 (i.e., electrocardiogram) and, therefore, the secondary procedure would be denied.

Quarterly Code List Updates

The CMS will issue quarterly revisions to the table of codes subject to NCCI edits that ForwardHealth will adopt and implement. Refer to the [CMS Web site](#) for downloadable code lists.

Claim Details Denied as a Result of National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

Providers should take the following steps if they are uncertain about why particular services on a claim were denied:

- Review ForwardHealth remittance information for the EOB message related to the denial.
- Review the claim submitted to ensure all information is accurate and complete.
- Consult current CPT and HCPCS publications to make sure proper coding instructions were followed.
- Consult current ForwardHealth publications, including the Online Handbook, to make sure current policy and billing instructions were followed.
- Call [Provider Services](#) for further information or explanation.

If reimbursement for a claim or a detail on a claim is denied due to an MUE or procedure-to-procedure edit, providers may appeal the denial. Following are instructions for submitting an appeal:

- Complete the [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#) form. In Element 16, select the "Consultant review requested" checkbox and the "Other/comments" checkbox. In the "Other/comments" text box, indicate "Reconsideration of an NCCI denial."
- Attach notes/supporting documentation.
- Submit a claim, Adjustment/Reconsideration Request, and additional notes/supporting documentation to ForwardHealth for processing.

Topic #539

Obtaining the Remittance Advice

Providers are required to access their secure ForwardHealth provider Portal account to obtain RAs (Remittance Advice). The secure Portal allows providers to conduct business and exchange electronic transactions with ForwardHealth. A separate Portal account is required for each financial payer.

Providers who do not have a [ForwardHealth provider Portal account](#) may request one.

RAs are accessible to providers in a TXT (text) format via the secure provider Portal account. The TXT format file is generated per financial payer and listed by RA number and RA date on the secure provider Portal account under "View Remittance Advices" menu at the top of the provider's Portal home page. RAs from the last 97 days are available in the TXT format.

Providers can also access RAs in a [CSV \(comma-separated values\)](#) format from their secure provider Portal account. The CSV files are generated per financial payer and listed by RA number and RA date on the secure provider Portal account under "View Remittance Advices" menu at the top of the provider's Portal home page. A separate CSV file is listed for the last 10 RAs.

Topic #4745

Overview of Claims Processing Information on the Remittance Advice

The claims processing sections of the RA (Remittance Advice) includes information submitted on claims and the status of the claims. The claim status designations are paid, adjusted, or denied. The RA also supplies information about why the claim was adjusted or denied or how the reimbursement was calculated for the payment.

The claims processing information in the RA is grouped by the type of claim and the status of the claim. Providers receive claims processing sections that correspond to the types of claims that have been finalized during the current financial cycle.

The [claims processing sections](#) reflect the types of claims submitted, such as the following:

- Compound drug claims.
- Dental claims.
- Drug claims.
- Inpatient claims.
- Long term care claims.
- Medicare crossover institutional claims.
- Medicare crossover professional claims.
- Outpatient claims.
- Professional claims.

The claims processing sections are divided into the following status designations:

- Adjusted claims.
- Denied claims.
- Paid claims.

Topic #4418

Reading Non-Claims Processing Sections of the Remittance Advice

Address Page

In the TXT (Text) file, the Address page displays the provider name and "Pay to" address of the provider.

Banner Messages

The Banner Messages section of the RA (Remittance Advice) contains important, time-sensitive messages for providers. For example, banner messages might inform providers of claim adjustments initiated by ForwardHealth, claim submission deadlines, and dates of upcoming training sessions. It is possible for each RA to include different messages; therefore, providers who receive multiple RAs should read all of their banner messages.

Banner messages appear on the TXT file, but not on the CSV (comma-separated values) file. Banner messages are posted in the "View Remittance Advices" menu on the provider's secure Portal account.

Explanation of Benefits Code Descriptions

Explanation of Benefits code descriptions are listed in the RA information in the TXT file.

Explanation of Benefits codes are listed in the RA information from the CSV file; however, the printed messages corresponding to the codes do not appear in the file. The EOB (Explanation of Benefits) code listing matching standard EOB codes to explanation text is available on the Portal for reference.

Financial Transactions Page

The Financial Transactions section details the provider's weekly financial activity. Financial transactions reported on the RA include payouts, refunds, accounts receivable, and payments for claims.

Payouts are payments made to the provider by ForwardHealth that do not correspond to a specific claim (i.e., nursing home assessment reimbursement).

Refunds are payments made to providers for overpayments.

The Accounts Receivable section displays the accounts receivable for amounts owed by providers. The accounts receivable is set to automatically recover any outstanding balance so that money owed is automatically recouped from the provider. If the full amount cannot be recouped during the current financial cycle, an outstanding balance will appear in the "Balance" column.

In the Accounts Receivable section, the "Amount Recouped In Current Cycle" column, when applicable, shows the recoupment amount for the financial cycle as a separate number from the "Recoupment Amount To Date." The "Recoupment Amount To Date" column shows the total amount recouped for each accounts receivable, *including* the amount recouped in the current cycle. The "Total Recoupment" *line* shows the sum of all recoupments to date in the "Recoupment Amount To Date" column and the sum of all recoupments for the current financial cycle in the "Amount Recouped In Current Cycle" column.

For each claim adjustment listed on the RA, a separate accounts receivable will be established and will be listed in the Financial Transactions section. The accounts receivable will be established for the entire amount of the original paid claim. This reflects the way ForwardHealth adjusts claims — by first recouping the entire amount of the original paid claim.

Each new claim adjustment is assigned an identification number called the "Adjustment ICN (internal control number)." For other financial transactions, the adjustment ICN is determined by the following formula.

Type of Character and Description	Applicable Characters and Description
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Transaction — The first character indicates the type of financial transaction that created the accounts receivable.	V — Capitation adjustment 1 — OBRA Level 1 screening void request 2 — OBRA Nurse Aide Training/Testing void request
Identifier — 10 additional numbers are assigned to complete the Adjustment ICN.	The identifier is used internally by ForwardHealth.

Service Code Descriptions

The Service Code Descriptions section lists all the service codes (i.e., procedure codes or revenue codes) reported on the RA with their corresponding descriptions.

Summary

The Summary section reviews the provider's claim activity and financial transactions with the payer (Medicaid, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), or WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program)) for the current financial cycle, the month-to-date, and the year-to-date, if applicable.

Under the "Claims Data" heading, providers can review the total number of claims that have been paid, adjusted, or denied along with the total amount reimbursed for all paid and adjusted claims. Only WWWP providers will see amounts reported for "Claims in Process." Other providers will always see zeroes in these fields.

Under the "Earnings Data" heading, providers will see total reimbursement amounts for other financial transactions, such as reimbursement for OBRA (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987) Level 1 screening, reimbursement for OBRA Nurse Aid Training/Testing, and capitation payments.

Note: HMOs should note that capitation payments are only reported in the Summary section of the RA. HMOs receive supplemental reports of their financial transactions from ForwardHealth.

The "Earnings Data" portion also summarizes refunds and voids and reports the net payment for the current financial cycle, the month-to-date, and the year-to-date, if applicable.

Providers should note that the Summary section will include outstanding checks 90 days after issuance and/or payments made to lien holders, if applicable.

Topic #368

Reading the Claim Adjustments Section of the Remittance Advice

Providers receive a Claim Adjustments section in the RA (Remittance Advice) if any of their claims were adjusted during the current financial cycle. A claim may be adjusted because one of the following occurred:

- An adjustment request was submitted by the provider.
- ForwardHealth initiated an adjustment.
- A cash refund was submitted to ForwardHealth.

To adjust a claim, ForwardHealth recoups the *entire amount* of the original paid claim and calculates a new payment amount for the claim adjustment. ForwardHealth does not recoup the *difference* — or pay the *difference* — between the original claim amount and the claim adjustment amount.

In the Claim Adjustments section, the original claim information in the claim header is surrounded by parentheses. Information about the claim adjustment appears directly below the original claim header information. Providers should check the Adjustment EOB (Explanation of Benefits) code(s) for a summary of why the claim was adjusted; other header EOBs will provide additional information.

The Claim Adjustments section only lists detail lines for a claim adjustment if that claim adjustment has detail line EOBs. This section does not list detail lines for the original paid claim.

Note: For adjusted drug claims, only the compound drug sections include detail lines.

Below the claim header and the detail information will be located one of three possible responses with a corresponding dollar amount: "Additional Payment," "Overpayment To Be Withheld," or "Refund Amount Applied." The response indicated depends on the difference between the original claim amount and the claim adjustment amount.

If the difference is a positive dollar amount, indicating that ForwardHealth owes additional monies to the provider, then the amount appears in the "Additional Payment" line.

If the difference is a negative dollar amount, indicating that the provider owes ForwardHealth additional monies, then the amount appears in the "Overpayment To Be Withheld" line. ForwardHealth automatically withholds this amount from payments made to the provider during the same financial cycle or during subsequent financial cycles, if necessary. This amount also appears in the Financial Transactions section as an outstanding balance under "Accounts Receivable."

An amount appears for "Refund Amount Applied" if ForwardHealth makes a payment to refund a cash receipt to a provider.

Topic #4824

Reading the Claims Denied Section of the Remittance Advice

Providers receive a [Claims Denied](#) section in the RA (Remittance Advice) if any of their claims were denied during the current financial cycle.

In the denied claims section, providers will see the original claim header information reported along with EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes for the claim header and the detail lines, as applicable. Providers should refer to the EOB Code Description section of the RA to determine why the claim was denied.

Topic #4825

Reading the Claims Paid Section of the Remittance Advice

Providers receive a [Claims Paid](#) section in the RA (Remittance Advice) if any of their claims were determined payable during the current financial cycle.

In a paid claims section, providers will see the original claim information reported along with EOB (Explanation of Benefits) codes for both the header and the detail lines, if applicable. Providers should refer to the EOB Code Description section of the RA for more

information about how the reimbursement amount was determined.

Topic #4828

Remittance Advice Financial Cycles

Each financial payer (Medicaid, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), and WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program)) has separate financial cycles that occur on different days of the week. RAs (Remittance Advices) are generated and posted to secure provider Portal accounts after each financial cycle is completed. Therefore, RAs may be generated and posted to secure provider Portal accounts from different payers on different days of the week.

Certain financial transactions may run on a daily basis, including non-claim related payouts and stop payment reissues. Providers may have access to the RAs generated and posted to secure provider Portal accounts for these financial transactions at any time during the week.

Topic #4827

Remittance Advice Generated by Payer and by Provider Certification

RAs (Remittance Advices) are generated and posted to secure provider Portal accounts from one or more of the following ForwardHealth financial payers:

- Wisconsin Medicaid (Wisconsin Medicaid is the financial payer for the Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and SeniorCare programs).
- WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program).
- WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).

A separate Portal account is required for each financial payer.

Note: Each of the three payers generate separate RAs for the claims, adjustment requests, or other financial transactions submitted to the payer. A provider who submits claims, adjustment requests, or other financial transactions to more than one of these payers may receive several RAs.

The RA is generated per provider certification. Providers who have a single NPI (National Provider Identifier) that is used for multiple certifications should be aware that an RA will be generated for each certification, but the same NPI will be reported on each of the RAs.

For instance, a hospital has obtained a single NPI. The hospital has a clinic, a lab, and a pharmacy that are all certified with ForwardHealth. The clinic, the lab, and the pharmacy submit separate claims that indicate the same NPI as the hospital. Separate RAs will be generated for the hospital, the clinic, the lab, and the pharmacy.

Topic #6237

Reporting a Lost Check

To report a lost check to ForwardHealth, providers are required to mail or fax a letter to ForwardHealth Financial Services. Providers are required to include the following information in the letter:

- Provider's name and address, including the ZIP+4 code.

- Provider's identification number.
 - For healthcare providers, include the NPI (National Provider Identifier) and ForwardHealth-issued taxonomy code.
 - For non-healthcare providers, include the provider identification number.
- Check number, check date, and check amount. (This should be recorded on the RA (Remittance Advice).)
- A written request to stop payment and reissue the check.
- The signature of an authorized financial representative. (An individual provider is considered his or her own authorized financial representative.)

Fax the letter to ForwardHealth at (608) 221-4567 or mail it to the following address:

ForwardHealth
 Financial Services
 6406 Bridge Rd
 Madison WI 53784-0005

Topic #5018

Searching for and Viewing All Claims on the Portal

All claims, including pharmacy and dental claims, are available for viewing on the ForwardHealth Portal.

To search and view claims on the Portal, providers may do the following:

- Go to the ForwardHealth Portal.
- Log in to the secure Provider area of the Portal.
- The most recent claims processed by ForwardHealth will be viewable on the provider's home page or the provider may select "claim search" and enter the applicable information to search for additional claims.
- Select the claim the provider wants to view.

Topic #4829

Sections of the Remittance Advice

The RA (Remittance Advice) information in the TXT (Text) file includes the following sections:

- Address page.
- Banner messages.
- Paper check information, if applicable.
- Claims processing information.
- EOB (Explanation of Benefits) code descriptions.
- Financial transactions.
- Service code descriptions.
- Summary.

The RA information in the CSV (Comma-Separated Values) file includes the following sections:

- Payment.
- Payment hold.
- Service codes and descriptions.
- Financial transactions.
- Summary.

- Inpatient claims.
- Outpatient claims.
- Professional claims.
- Medicare crossovers — Professional.
- Medicare crossovers — Institutional.
- Compound Drug Claims.
- Drug claims.
- Dental claims.
- Long term care claims.
- Financial transactions.
- Summary.

Providers can select specific sections of the RA in the [CSV](#) file within each RA date to be downloaded making the information easy to read and to organize.

Remittance Advice Header Information

The first page of each section of the RA (except the address page of the TXT file) displays the same RA header information.

The following fields are on the left-hand side of the header:

- The technical name of the RA section (e.g., CRA-TRAN-R), which is an internal ForwardHealth designation.
- The RA number, which is a unique number assigned to each RA that is generated.
- The name of the payer (Medicaid, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), or WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program)).
- The "Pay to" address of the provider. The "Pay to" address is used for mailing purposes.

The following information is in the middle of the header:

- A description of the financial cycle.
- The name of the RA section (e.g., "Financial Transactions" or "Professional Services Claims Paid").

The right-hand side of the header reports the following information:

- The date of the financial cycle and date the RA was generated.
- The page number.
- The "Payee ID" of the provider. A payee ID is defined as the identification number of a unique entity receiving payment for goods and/or services from ForwardHealth. The payee ID is up to 15 characters long and may be based on a pre-existing identification number, such as the Medicaid provider number. The payee ID is an internal ForwardHealth designation. The Medicaid provider number will display in this field for providers who do not have an NPI (National Provider Identifier).
- The NPI of the provider, if applicable. This field will be blank for those providers who do not have an NPI.
- The number of the check issued for the RA, if applicable. The date of payment on the check, if applicable.

Topic #544

Verifying Accuracy of Claims Processing

After obtaining ForwardHealth remittance information, providers should compare it to the claims or adjustment requests to verify that ForwardHealth processed elements of the claims or adjustment requests as submitted. To ensure correct reimbursement, providers should do the following:

- Identify and correct any discrepancy that affected the way a claim processed.

- Correct and resubmit claims that are denied.
- Submit an adjustment request for allowed claims that require a change or correction.

When posting a payment or denial to a member's account, providers should note the date on the ForwardHealth remittance information that indicates that the claim or adjustment has finalized. Providers are required to supply this information if further follow-up actions are necessary.

Responsibilities

Topic #516

Accuracy of Claims

The provider is responsible for the accuracy, truthfulness, and completeness of all claims submitted whether prepared or submitted by the provider or by an outside billing service or clearinghouse.

Providers may submit claims only *after* the service is provided.

A provider may not seek reimbursement from ForwardHealth for a [noncovered service](#) by charging ForwardHealth for a [covered service](#) that was not actually provided to the member and then applying the reimbursement toward the noncovered service. In addition, a provider may not seek reimbursement for two separate covered services to receive additional reimbursement over the maximum allowed amount for the one service that was provided. Such actions are considered fraudulent.

Topic #548

Exceptions to the Submission Deadline

State and federal laws provide eight exceptions to the submission deadline. According to federal regulations and [DHS 106.03](#), Wis. Admin. Code, ForwardHealth may consider exceptions to the submission deadline only in the following circumstances:

- Change in a nursing home resident's [level of care](#) or [liability amount](#).
- Decision made by a court order, fair hearing, or the DHS (Department of Health Services).
- Denial due to discrepancy between the member's enrollment information in ForwardHealth interChange and the member's actual enrollment.
- Reconsideration or recoupment.
- Retroactive enrollment for persons on GR (General Relief).
- Medicare denial occurs after ForwardHealth's submission deadline.
- Refund request from an other health insurance source.
- Retroactive member enrollment.

ForwardHealth has no authority to approve any other exceptions to the submission deadline.

Claims or adjustment requests that meet one of the exceptions to the submission deadline may be submitted to [Timely Filing](#).

Topic #547

Submission Deadline

ForwardHealth recommends that providers submit claims at least on a monthly basis. Billing on a monthly basis allows the maximum time available for filing and refiling before the mandatory submission deadline.

With few exceptions, state and federal laws require that providers submit correctly completed claims before the submission deadline.

Providers are responsible for resolving claims. Members are not responsible for resolving claims. To resolve claims before the submission deadline, ForwardHealth encourages providers to use all available resources.

Claims

To receive reimbursement, claims and adjustment requests must be received within 365 days of the DOS (date of service). This deadline applies to claims, corrected claims, and adjustments to claims.

Crossover Claims

To receive reimbursement for services that are allowed by Medicare, claims and adjustment requests for coinsurance, copayment, and deductible must be received within 365 days of the DOS or within 90 days of the Medicare processing date, whichever is later. This deadline applies to all claims, corrected claims, and adjustments to claims. Providers should submit these claims through normal processing channels (not timely filing).

Topic #517

Usual and Customary Charges

For most services, providers are required to indicate their usual and customary charge when submitting claims. The usual and customary charge is the provider's charge for providing the same service to persons not entitled to the program's benefits. For providers using a sliding fee scale, the usual and customary charge is the median of the individual provider's charge for the service when provided to non-program patients. For providers who have not established usual and customary charges, the charge should be reasonably related to the provider's cost for providing the service.

Providers may not discriminate against BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid members by charging a higher fee for the same service than that charged to a private-pay patient.

For services requiring a member copayment, providers should still indicate their usual and customary charge. The copayment amount collected from the member should not be deducted from the charge submitted. When applicable, BadgerCare Plus automatically deducts the copayment amount.

For most services, BadgerCare Plus reimburses the lesser of the provider's usual and customary charge or the maximum allowable fee established.

Submission

Topic #4350

1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Instructions for Community Care Organizations

A [sample 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form](#) is available for community care organizations.

Use the following claim form completion instructions, not the claim form's printed descriptions, to avoid denial or inaccurate claim payment. Complete all required elements as appropriate. Do not include attachments unless instructed to do so.

Members enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid receive a ForwardHealth identification card. Always verify a member's enrollment before providing nonemergency services to determine if there are any limitations on covered services and to obtain the correct spelling of the member's name. Refer to the Online Handbook in the Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal for more information about verifying enrollment.

When submitting a claim with multiple pages, providers are required to indicate page numbers using the format "Page X of X" in the upper right corner of the claim form.

Submit completed paper claims to the following address:

ForwardHealth
Claims and Adjustments
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0410

Element 1 — Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE CHAMPUS, CHAMPVA, Group Health Plan, FECA, Blk Lung, Other
Enter "X" in the Medicaid check box.

Element 1a — Insured's ID Number

Enter the member identification number. Do not enter any other numbers or letters. Use the ForwardHealth card or Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) to obtain the correct member ID.

Element 2 — Patient's Name

Enter the member's last name, first name, and middle initial. Use the EVS to obtain the correct spelling of the member's name. If the name or spelling of the name on the ForwardHealth card and the EVS do not match, use the spelling from the EVS.

Element 3 — Patient's Birth Date, Sex

Enter the member's birth date in MM/DD/YY format (e.g., February 3, 1955, would be 02/03/55) or in MM/DD/CCYY format (e.g., February 3, 1955, would be 02/03/1955). Specify whether the member is male or female by placing an "X" in the appropriate box.

Element 4 — Insured's Name

Data are required in this element for OCR (Optical Character Recognition) processing. Any information populated by a provider's computer software is acceptable for this element (e.g., "Same"). If computer software does not automatically complete this element, enter information such as member's last name, first name, and middle initial.

Element 5 — Patient's Address

Enter the complete address of the member's place of residence, if known.

Element 6 — Patient Relationship to Insured (not required)

Element 7 — Insured's Address (not required)

Element 8 — Patient Status (not required)

Element 9 — Other Insured's Name

Commercial health insurance must be billed prior to submitting claims to ForwardHealth, unless the service does not require commercial health insurance billing as determined by ForwardHealth.

If the EVS indicates that the member has dental ("DEN") insurance only or has no commercial health insurance, leave Element 9 blank.

If the EVS indicates that the member has Wausau Health Protection Plan ("HPP"), BlueCross & BlueShield ("BLU"), Wisconsin Physicians Service ("WPS"), Medicare Supplement ("SUP"), TriCare ("CHA"), Vision only ("VIS"), a health maintenance organization ("HMO"), or some other ("OTH") commercial health insurance, and the service requires other insurance billing, one of the following three OI (other insurance) explanation codes must be indicated in the first box of Element 9. If submitting a multiple-page claim, providers are required to indicate OI explanation codes on the *first page* of the claim.

The description is not required, nor is the policyholder, plan name, group number, etc. (Elements 9a, 9b, 9c, and 9d are not required.)

Code	Description
OI-P	PAID in part or in full by commercial health insurance or commercial HMO. In Element 29 of this claim form, indicate the amount paid by commercial health insurance to the provider or to the insured.
OI-D	DENIED by commercial health insurance or commercial HMO following submission of a correct and complete claim, or payment was applied towards the coinsurance and deductible. Do not use this code unless the claim was actually billed to the commercial health insurer.
OI-Y	YES, the member has commercial health insurance or commercial HMO coverage, but it was not billed for reasons including, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member denied coverage or will not cooperate. • The provider knows the service in question is not covered by the carrier. • The member's commercial health insurance failed to respond to initial and follow-up claims. • Benefits are not assignable or cannot get assignment. • Benefits are exhausted.

Note: The provider may not use OI-D or OI-Y if the member is covered by a commercial HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) and the HMO denied payment because an otherwise covered service was not rendered by a designated provider. Services covered by a commercial HMO are not reimbursable by ForwardHealth except for the copayment and deductible amounts. Providers who receive a capitation payment from the commercial HMO may not bill ForwardHealth for services that are included in the capitation payment.

Element 9a — Other Insured's Policy or Group Number (not required)

Element 9b — Other Insured's Date of Birth, Sex (not required)

Element 9c — Employer's Name or School Name (not required)

Element 9d — Insurance Plan Name or Program Name (not required)

Element 10a-10c — Is Patient's Condition Related to: (not required)**Element 10d — Reserved for Local Use (not required)****Element 11 — Insured's Policy Group or FECA Number**

Use the first box of this element only. (Elements 11a, 11b, 11c, and 11d are not required.) Element 11 should be left blank when one or more of the following statements are true:

- Medicare never covers the procedure in any circumstance.
- ForwardHealth indicates the member does *not* have any Medicare coverage including Medicare Cost ("MCC") or Medicare + Choice ("MPC") for the service provided. For example, the service is covered by Medicare Part A, but the member does not have Medicare Part A.
- ForwardHealth indicates that the provider is not Medicare enrolled.
- Medicare has allowed the charges. In this case, attach the Explanation of Medicare Benefits, but do not indicate on the claim form the amount Medicare paid.

If none of the previous statements are true, a Medicare disclaimer code is necessary. If submitting a multiple-page claim, indicate Medicare disclaimer codes on the first page of the claim. The following Medicare disclaimer codes may be used when appropriate.

Code	Description
M-7	<p>Medicare disallowed or denied payment. This code applies when Medicare denies the claim for reasons related to policy (not billing errors), or the member's lifetime benefit, spell of illness, or yearly allotment of available benefits is exhausted.</p> <p><i>For Medicare Part A, use M-7 in the following instances (all three criteria must be met):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider is identified in ForwardHealth files as certified for Medicare Part • The member is eligible for Medicare Part A. • The service is covered by Medicare Part A but is denied by Medicare Part A due to frequency limitations, diagnosis restrictions, or exhausted benefits. <p><i>For Medicare Part B, use M-7 in the following instances (all three criteria must be met):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider is identified in ForwardHealth files as certified for Medicare Part B. • The member is eligible for Medicare Part B. • The service is covered by Medicare Part B but is denied by Medicare Part B due to frequency limitations, diagnosis restrictions, or exhausted benefits.
M-8	<p>Noncovered Medicare service. This code may be used when Medicare was not billed because the service is not covered in this circumstance.</p> <p><i>For Medicare Part A, use M-8 in the following instances (all three criteria must be met):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider is identified in ForwardHealth files as certified for Medicare Part A. • The member is eligible for Medicare Part A. • The service is usually covered by Medicare Part A but not in this circumstance (e.g., member's diagnosis). <p><i>For Medicare Part B, use M-8 in the following instances (all three criteria must be met):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider is identified in ForwardHealth files as certified for Medicare Part B. • The member is eligible for Medicare Part B. • The service is usually covered by Medicare Part B but not in this circumstance (e.g., member's diagnosis).

Element 11a — Insured's Date of Birth, Sex (not required)

Element 11b — Employer's Name or School Name (not required)

Element 11c — Insurance Plan Name or Program Name (not required)

Element 11d — Is there another Health Benefit Plan? (not required)

Element 12 — Patient's or Authorized Person's Signature (not required)

Element 13 — Insured's or Authorized Person's Signature (not required)

Element 14 — Date of Current Illness, Injury, or Pregnancy (not required)

Element 15 — If Patient Has Had Same or Similar Illness (not required)

Element 16 — Dates Patient Unable to Work in Current Occupation (not required)

Element 17 — Name of Referring Provider or Other Source [not required]

Element 17a (not required)

Element 17b — NPI (not required)

Element 18 — Hospitalization Dates Related to Current Services (not required)

Element 19 — Reserved for Local Use (not required)

Element 20 — Outside Lab? \$Charges (not required)

Element 21 — Diagnosis or Nature of Illness or Injury

Enter diagnosis code V68.9 (unspecified encounter for administrative purposes). The diagnosis description is not required.

Element 22 — Medicaid Resubmission (not required)

Element 23 — Prior Authorization Number (not required)

Element 24

The six service lines in Element 24 have been divided horizontally. Enter service information in the bottom, unshaded area of the six service lines. The horizontal division of each service line is not intended to allow the billing of 12 lines of service.

Element 24A — Date(s) of Service

Enter to and from DOS (dates of service) in MM/DD/YY or MM/DD/CCYY format. If the service was provided on only one DOS, enter the date under "From." Leave "To" blank or re-enter the "From" date.

If the service was provided on consecutive days, those dates may be indicated as a range of dates by entering the first date as the "From" DOS and the last date as the "To" DOS in MM/DD/YY or MM/DD/CCYY format.

A range of dates may be indicated only if the POS (place of service), the procedure code (and modifiers, if applicable), the charge, the units, and the rendering provider were identical for each DOS within the range.

Element 24B — Place of Service

Enter the appropriate two-digit POS code for each item used or service performed.

Element 24C — EMG

Enter a "Y" for each procedure performed as an emergency. If the procedure was not an emergency, leave this element blank.

Element 24D — Procedures, Services, or Supplies

Enter the single most appropriate five-character procedure code. ForwardHealth denies claims received without an appropriate procedure code.

Modifiers

Enter the appropriate (up to four per procedure code) modifier(s) in the "Modifier" column of Element 24D.

Element 24E — Diagnosis Pointer

Enter the number(s) that corresponds to the appropriate ICD-9-CM (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification) diagnosis code(s) listed in Element 21. Up to four diagnosis pointers per detail may be indicated. Valid diagnosis pointers, digits 1 through 8, should not be separated by commas or spaces.

Element 24F — \$ Charges

Enter the total charge for each line item.

Enter the dollar amount right justified in the dollar area of the field. Do not use commas when reporting dollar amounts. Dollar signs should not be entered. Enter "00" in the cents area if the amount is a whole number.

Providers are to bill ForwardHealth their usual and customary charge. The usual and customary charge is the provider's charge for providing the same service to persons not entitled to ForwardHealth benefits.

Element 24G — Days or Units

Enter the number of days or units. Only include a decimal when billing fractions (e.g., 1.50).

Element 24H — EPSDT/Family Plan (not required)

Element 24I — ID Qual (not required)

Element 24J — Rendering Provider ID. # (not required)

Element 25 — Federal Tax ID Number (not required)

Element 26 — Patient's Account No. (not required)

Optional — Providers may enter up to 14 characters of the patient's internal office account number. This number will appear on the RA (Remittance Advice) and/or the 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice) transaction.

Element 27 — Accept Assignment? (not required)

Element 28 — Total Charge

Enter the total charges for this claim. If submitting a multiple-page claim, enter the total charge for the claim (i.e., the sum of all details from all pages of the claim) *only on the last page of the claim*.

Enter the dollar amount right justified in the dollar area of the field. Do not use commas when reporting dollar amounts. Dollar signs should not be entered. Enter "00" in the cents area if the amount is a whole number.

Element 29 — Amount Paid

Enter the actual amount paid by commercial health insurance. If submitting a multiple-page claim, indicate the amount paid by commercial health insurance *only on the first page* of the claim.

Enter the dollar amount right justified in the dollar area of the field. Do not use commas when reporting dollar amounts. Dollar signs should not be entered. Enter "00" in the cents area if the amount is a whole number.

If a dollar amount indicated in Element 29 is greater than zero, "OI-P" must be indicated in Element 9. If the commercial health insurance denied the claim, enter "000." Do not enter Medicare-paid amounts in this field.

Element 30 — Balance Due

Enter the balance due as determined by subtracting the amount paid in Element 29 from the amount in Element 28. If submitting a multiple-page claim, enter the balance due for the claim (i.e., the sum of all details from all pages of the claim minus the amount paid by commercial insurance) *only on the last page of the claim*.

Enter the dollar amount right justified in the dollar area of the field. Do not use commas when reporting dollar amounts. Dollar signs should not be entered. Enter "00" in the cents area if the amount is a whole number.

Element 31 — Signature of Physician or Supplier, Including Degrees or Credentials

The provider or authorized representative must sign in Element 31. The month, day, and year the form is signed must also be entered in MM/DD/YY or MM/DD/CCYY format.

Note: The signature may be a computer-printed or typed name and date or a signature stamp with the date.

Element 32 — Service Facility Location Information (not required)

Element 32a — NPI (not required)

Element 32b — (not required)

Element 33 — Billing Provider Info & Ph #

Enter the name of the provider submitting the claim and the practice location address. The minimum requirement is the provider's name, street, city, state, and ZIP+4 code.

Element 33a — NPI (not required)

Element 33b — Qualifier #

Enter the qualifier "ID" followed by the billing provider's provider number.

Do not include a space between the qualifier ("ID") and the provider number.

Topic #542

Attached Documentation

Providers should not submit additional documentation with a claim *unless* specifically requested.

Topic #6957

Copy Claims on the ForwardHealth Portal

Providers can copy institutional, professional, and dental paid claims on the ForwardHealth Portal. Providers can open any paid claim, click the "Copy" button, and all of the information on the claim will be copied over to a new claim form. Providers can then make any desired changes to the claim form and click "Submit" to submit as a new claim. After submission, ForwardHealth will issue a response with a new ICN (internal control number) along with the claim status.

Topic #5017

Correct Errors on Claims and Resubmit to ForwardHealth on the Portal

Providers can view [EOB \(Explanation of Benefits\) codes](#) and descriptions for any claim submitted to ForwardHealth on the ForwardHealth Portal. The EOBs help providers determine why a claim did not process successfully, so providers may correct the error online and resubmit the claim. The EOB appears on the bottom of the screen and references the applicable claim header or detail.

Topic #4997

Direct Data Entry of Professional and Institutional Claims on the Portal

Providers can submit the following claims to ForwardHealth via DDE (Direct Data Entry) on the ForwardHealth Portal:

- Professional claims.
- Institutional claims.
- Dental claims.
- Compound drug claims.
- Noncompound drug claims.

DDE is an online application that allows providers to submit claims directly to ForwardHealth.

When submitting claims via DDE, required fields are indicated with an asterisk next to the field. If a required field is left blank, the claim will not be submitted and a message will appear prompting the provider to complete the specific required field(s). Portal help is available for each online application screen. In addition, search functions accompany certain fields so providers do not need to look up the following information in secondary resources.

On professional claim forms, providers may search for and select the following:

- Procedure codes.
- Modifiers.
- Diagnosis codes.
- POS (place of service) codes.

On institutional claim forms, providers may search for and select the following:

- Type of bill.
- Patient status.
- Admission source.
- Admission type.
- Diagnosis codes.
- Revenue codes.
- Procedure codes.
- Modifiers.

On dental claims, providers may search for and select the following:

- Procedure codes.
- Rendering providers.
- Area of the oral cavity.
- POS.

On compound and noncompound drug claims, providers may search for and select the following:

- Diagnosis codes.
- NDCs (National Drug Codes).
- Patient location codes.
- Professional service codes.
- Reason for service codes.
- Result of service codes.

Using DDE, providers may submit claims for compound drugs and single-entity drugs. Any provider, including a provider of DME (durable medical equipment) or of DMS (disposable medical supplies) who submits noncompound drug claims, may submit these claims via DDE. All claims, including POS (Point-of-Sale) claims, are viewable via DDE.

Topic #344

Electronic Claims Submission

Providers are encouraged to submit claims electronically. Electronic claims submission does the following:

- Adapts to existing systems.
- Allows flexible submission methods.
- Improves cash flow.
- Offers efficient and timely payments.
- Reduces billing and processing errors.
- Reduces clerical effort.

Topic #365

Extraordinary Claims

[Extraordinary claims](#) are claims that have been denied by a BadgerCare Plus HMO or SSI HMO and should be submitted to fee-for-service.

Topic #4837

HIPAA-Compliant Data Requirements

Procedure Codes

All fields submitted on paper and electronic claims are edited to ensure HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) compliance before being processed. Compliant code sets include CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) and HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) procedure codes entered into all fields, including those fields that are "Not Required" or "Optional."

If the information in all fields is not valid and recognized by ForwardHealth, the claim will be denied.

Provider Numbers

For health care providers, NPIs (National Provider Identifiers) are required in all provider number fields on paper claims and 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transactions, including rendering, billing, referring, prescribing, attending, and "Other" provider fields.

Non-healthcare providers, including personal care providers, SMV (specialized medical vehicle) providers, blood banks, and CCOs (Community Care Organizations) should enter valid provider numbers into fields that require a provider number.

Topic #562

Managed Care Organizations

Claims for services that are covered in a member's state-contracted MCO (managed care organization) should be submitted to that MCO.

Topic #10837

Note Field for Most Claims Submitted Electronically

In some instances, ForwardHealth requires providers to include a description of a service identified by an unlisted, or NOC (not otherwise classified), procedure code. Providers submitting claims electronically should include a description of a NOC procedure code in a "Notes" field, if required. The Notes field allows providers to enter up to 80 characters. In some cases, the Notes field allows providers to submit NOC procedure code information on a claim electronically instead of on a paper claim or with a paper attachment to an electronic claim.

The Notes field should only be used for NOC procedure codes that do not require prior authorization.

Claims Submitted Via the ForwardHealth Portal Direct Data Entry or Provider Electronic Solutions

A Notes field is available on the ForwardHealth Portal DDE (direct data entry) and PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software when providers submit the following types of claims:

- Institutional.
- Professional.
- Dental.

On the Professional and Dental forms, a Notes field is available on each detail. On the Institutional form, the Notes field is only available on the header.

Claims Submitted Via the 837 Health Care Claim Transaction

ForwardHealth accepts and utilizes information submitted by providers about NOC procedure codes in the following loop/segments on the 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transactions:

- Loop 2300, segment NTE for 837 Health Care Claim: Institutional.
- Loop 2400, segment NTE for 837 Health Care Claim: Professional.
- Loop 2400, segment NTE for 837 Health Care Claim: Dental.

Topic #561

Paper Claim Form Preparation and Data Alignment Requirements

Optical Character Recognition

Paper claims submitted to ForwardHealth on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form and UB-04 Claim Form are processed using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software that recognizes printed, alphanumeric text. OCR software increases efficiency by alleviating the need for keying in data from paper claims.

The data alignment requirements do not apply to the [Compound Drug Claim \(F-13073 \(10/08\)\)](#) and the [Noncompound Drug Claim \(F-13072 \(10/08\)\)](#).

Speed and Accuracy of Claims Processing

OCR software processes claim forms by reading text within fields on claim forms. After a paper claim form is received by ForwardHealth, the claim form is scanned so that an image can be displayed electronically. The OCR software reads the electronic image on file and populates the information into the ForwardHealth interChange system. This technology increases accuracy by removing the possibility of errors being made during manual keying.

OCR software speeds paper claim processing, but only if providers prepare their claim forms correctly. In order for OCR software to read the claim form accurately, the quality of copy and the alignment of text within individual fields on the claim form need to be precise. If data are misaligned, the claim could be processed incorrectly. If data cannot be read by the OCR software, the process will stop and the electronic image of the claim form will need to be reviewed and keyed manually. This will cause an increase in processing time.

Handwritten Claims

Submitting handwritten claims should be avoided whenever possible. ForwardHealth accepts handwritten claims; however, it is very difficult for OCR software to read a handwritten claim. If a handwritten claim cannot be read by the OCR software, it will need to be keyed manually from the electronic image of the claim form. Providers should avoid submitting claims with handwritten corrections as this can also cause OCR software processing delays.

Use Original Claim Forms

Only original 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms and UB-04 Claim Forms should be submitted. Original claim forms are printed in red ink and may be obtained from a federal forms supplier. ForwardHealth does not provide these claim forms. Claims that are submitted as photocopies cannot be read by OCR software and will need to be keyed manually from an electronic image of the claim form. This could result in processing delays.

Use Laser or Ink Jet Printers

It is recommended that claims are printed using laser or ink jet printers rather than printers that use DOT matrix. DOT matrix printers have breaks in the letters and numbers, which may cause the OCR software to misread the claim form. Use of old or worn ink cartridges should also be avoided. If the claim form is read incorrectly by the OCR software, the claim may be denied or reimbursed incorrectly. The process may also be stopped if it is unable to read the claim form, which will cause a delay while it is manually reviewed.

Alignment

Alignment within each field on the claim form needs to be accurate. If text within a field is aligned incorrectly, the OCR software may not recognize that data are present within the field or may not read the data correctly. For example, if a reimbursement amount of \$300.00 is entered into a field on the claim form, but the last "0" is not aligned within the field, the OCR software may read the number as \$30.00, and the claim will be reimbursed incorrectly.

To get the best alignment on the claim form, providers should center information vertically within each field, and align all information on the same horizontal plane. Avoid squeezing two lines of text into one of the six line items on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.

The following sample claim forms demonstrate correct and incorrect alignment:

- [Correct alignment](#) for the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- [Incorrect alignment](#) for the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- [Correct alignment](#) for the UB-04 Claim Form.
- [Incorrect alignment](#) for the UB-04 Claim Form.

Clarity

Clarity is very important. If information on the claim form is not clear enough to be read by the OCR software, the process may stop, prompting manual review.

The following guidelines will produce the clearest image and optimize processing time:

- Use 10-point or 12-point Times New Roman or Courier New font.
- Type all claim data in uppercase letters.
- Use only black ink to complete the claim form.
- Avoid using italics, bold, or script.
- Make sure characters do not touch.
- Make sure there are no lines from the printer cartridge anywhere on the claim form.
- Avoid using special characters such as dollar signs, decimals, dashes, asterisks, or backslashes, unless it is specified that these characters should be used.
- Use Xs in check boxes. Avoid using letters such as "Y" for "Yes," "N" for "No," "M" for "Male," or "F" for "Female."
- Do not highlight any information on the claim form. Highlighted information blackens when it is imaged, and the OCR software will be unable to read it.

Note: The above guidelines will also produce the clearest image for claims that need to be keyed manually from an electronic image.

Staples, Correction Liquid, and Correction Tape

The use of staples, correction liquid, correction tape, labels, or stickers on claim forms should be avoided. Staples need to be removed from claim forms before they can be imaged, which can damage the claim and cause a delay in processing time. Correction liquid, correction tape, labels, and stickers can cause data to be read incorrectly or cause the OCR process to stop, prompting manual review. If the form cannot be read by the OCR software, it will need to be keyed manually from an electronic image.

Additional Diagnosis Codes

ForwardHealth will accept up to eight diagnosis codes in Element 21 of the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form. To correctly add additional diagnosis codes in this element so that it can be read properly by the OCR software, providers should indicate the fifth diagnosis code between the first and third diagnosis code blanks, the sixth diagnosis code between the second and fourth diagnosis code blanks, the seventh diagnosis code to the right of the third diagnosis code blank, and the eighth diagnosis code to the right of the fourth diagnosis code blank. Providers should not number any additional diagnosis codes.

Anchor Fields

Anchor fields are areas on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form and the UB-04 Claim Form that the OCR software uses to identify what type of form is being processed. The following fields on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form are anchor fields:

- Element 2 (Patient's Name).
- Element 4 (Insured's Name).
- Element 24 (Detail 1).

The following fields on the UB-04 Claim Form are anchor fields:

- Form Locator 4 (Type of Bill).
- Form Locator 5 (Fed. Tax No.).
- Form Locator 9 (Patient Address).
- Form Locator 58A (Insured's Name).

Since ForwardHealth uses these fields to identify the form as a 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form or a UB-04 Claim Form, it is required that these fields are completed for processing.

Topic #10637

Reimbursement Reduction for Most Paper Claims

As a result of the Medicaid Rate Reform project, ForwardHealth will reduce reimbursement on most claims submitted to ForwardHealth on paper. Most paper claims will be subject up to a \$1.10 reimbursement reduction per claim.

For each claim that a reimbursement reduction was applied, providers will receive an EOB (Explanation of Benefits) to notify them of the payment reduction. For claims with reimbursement reductions, the EOB will state the following, "This claim is eligible for electronic submission. Up to a \$1.10 reduction has been applied to this claim payment."

If a paid claim's total reimbursement amount is less than \$1.10, ForwardHealth will reduce the payment up to a \$1.10. The claim will show on the Remittance Advice as paid but with a \$0 paid amount.

The reimbursement reduction applies to the following paper claims:

- 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- UB-04 (CMS 1450) Claim Form.
- Compound Drug Claim Form.
- Noncompound Drug Claim Form.

Exceptions to Paper Claim Reimbursement Reduction

The reimbursement reduction will not affect the following providers or claims:

- In-state emergency providers.
- Out-of-state providers.
- Medicare Crossover Claims.
- Any claims that ForwardHealth requires additional supporting information to be submitted on paper. For example:
 - Hysterectomy claims must be submitted along with a paper Acknowledgement of Receipt of Hysterectomy Information Form.
 - Sterilization claims must be submitted along with a paper Consent for Sterilization Form.
 - Claims submitted to Timely Filing appeals must be submitted on paper with a Timely Filing Appeals Request form.
 - In certain circumstances, drug claims must be submitted on paper with a Pharmacy Special Handling Request.

Topic #4817

Submitting Paper Attachments with Electronic Claims

Providers may submit paper attachments to accompany electronic claims and electronic claim adjustments. Providers should refer to their [companion documents](#) for directions on indicating that a paper attachment will be submitted by mail.

Paper attachments that go with electronic claim transactions must be submitted with the [Claim Form Attachment Cover Page \(F-13470 \(10/08\)\)](#). Providers are required to indicate an ACN (attachment control number) for paper attachment(s) submitted with electronic claims. (The ACN is an alphanumeric entry between 2 and 80 digits assigned by the provider to identify the attachment.) The ACN must be indicated on the cover page so that ForwardHealth can match the paper attachment(s) to the correct electronic claim.

ForwardHealth will hold an electronic claim transaction or a paper attachment(s) for up to 30 calendar days to find a match. If a match cannot be made within 30 days, the claim will be processed without the attachment and will be denied if an attachment is required. When such a claim is denied, both the paper attachment(s) and the electronic claim will need to be resubmitted.

Providers are required to send paper attachments relating to electronic claim transactions to the following address:

ForwardHealth
Claims and Adjustments
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0002

This does not apply to pharmacy claims.

Topic #11677

Uploading Claim Attachments Via the Portal

Providers are able to upload attachments for most claims via the secure Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal. This allows providers to submit all components for claims electronically.

Providers are able to upload attachments via the Portal when a claim is suspended and an attachment was indicated but not yet received. Providers are able to upload attachments for any suspended claim that was submitted electronically. Providers should note that all attachments for a suspended claim must be submitted within the same business day.

Claim Types

Providers will be able to upload attachments to claims via the Portal for the following claim types:

- Professional.
- Institutional.
- Dental.

The submission policy for compound and noncompound drug claims does not allow attachments.

Document Formats

Providers are able to upload documents in the following formats:

- JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) (.jpg or .jpeg).
- PDF (Portable Document Format) (.pdf).
- Rich Text Format (.rtf).
- Text File (.txt).

JPEG files must be stored with a ".jpg" or ".jpeg" extension; text files must be stored with a ".txt" extension; rich text format files must be stored with a ".rtf" extension; and PDF files must be stored with a ".pdf" extension.

Microsoft Word files (.doc) cannot be uploaded but can be saved and uploaded in Rich Text Format or Text File formats.

Uploading Claim Attachments

Claims Submitted by Direct Data Entry

When a provider submits a DDE (Direct Data Entry) claim and indicates an attachment will also be included, a feature button will appear and link to the DDE claim screen where attachments can be uploaded.

Providers are still required to indicate on the DDE claim that the claim will include an attachment via the "Attachments" panel.

Claims will suspend for 30 days before denying for not receiving the attachment.

Claims Submitted by Provider Electronic Software and 837 Health Care Claim Transactions

Providers submitting claims via 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transactions are required to indicate attachments via the PWK segment. Providers submitting claims via PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software will be required to indicate attachments via the attachment control field. Once the claim has been submitted, providers will be able to search for the claim on the Portal and upload the attachment via the Portal. Refer to the Implementation Guides for how to use the PWK segment in 837 transactions and the [PES Manual](#) for how to use the attachment control field.

Claims will suspend with 30 days before denying for not receiving the attachment.

Timely Filing Appeals Requests

Topic #549

Requirements

When a claim or adjustment request meets one of the [exceptions](#) to the submission deadline, the provider is required to submit a [Timely Filing Appeals Request \(F-13047 \(10/08\)\)](#) form with a paper claim or an [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#) form to override the submission deadline.

DOS (dates of service) that are beyond the submission deadline should be submitted separately from DOS that are within the deadline. Claims or adjustment requests received that contain both current and late DOS are processed through normal channels without review by Timely Filing and late DOS will be denied.

Topic #551

Resubmission

Decisions on [Timely Filing Appeals Requests \(F-13047 \(10/08\)\)](#) cannot be appealed. Providers may resubmit the claim to Timely Filing if both of the following occur:

- The provider submits additional documentation as requested.
- ForwardHealth receives the documentation before the specified deadline for the exception to the submission deadline.

Topic #744

Submission

To receive consideration for an exception to the submission deadline, providers are required to submit the following:

- A properly completed [Timely Filing Appeals Request \(F-13047 \(10/08\)\)](#) form.
- A legible claim or adjustment request.
- All required documentation as specified for the exception to the submission deadline.

To receive consideration, a Timely Filing Appeals Request must be received before the deadline specified for the exception to the submission deadline.

When completing the claim or adjustment request, providers are required to indicate the procedure code, diagnosis code, POS (place of service) code, etc., as effective for the DOS (date of service). However, providers should use the current claim form and instructions or adjustment request form and instructions. Reimbursement for Timely Filing Appeals Requests is contingent upon the claim or adjustment request meeting program requirements for the DOS.

The following table lists the filing deadlines and documentation requirements as they correspond to each of the eight allowable exceptions.

Change in Nursing Home Resident's Level of Care or Liability Amount		
Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address

This exception occurs when a nursing home claim is initially received within the submission deadline and reimbursed incorrectly due to a change in the member's authorized level of care or liability amount.	To receive consideration, the request must be submitted within 455 days from the DOS and the correct liability amount or level of care must be indicated on the Adjustment/Reconsideration Request (F-13046 (10/08)) form.	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050
The most recent claim number (also known as the ICN (internal control number)) must be indicated on the Adjustment/Reconsideration Request form. This number may be the result of a ForwardHealth-initiated adjustment.		

Decision Made by a Court, Fair Hearing, or the Department of Health Services

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when a decision is made by a court, fair hearing, or the DHS (Department of Health Services).	To receive consideration, the request must be submitted within 90 days from the date of the decision of the hearing. A complete copy of the notice received from the court, fair hearing, or DHS must be submitted with the request.	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

Denial Due to Discrepancy Between the Member's Enrollment Information in ForwardHealth interChange and the Member's Actual Enrollment

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when a claim is initially received by the deadline but is denied due to a discrepancy between the member's enrollment information in ForwardHealth interChange and the member's actual enrollment.	<p>To receive consideration, the following documentation must be submitted within 455 days from the DOS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of remittance information showing the claim was submitted in a timely manner and denied with a qualifying enrollment-related explanation. • A photocopy of one of the following indicating enrollment on the DOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ White paper BadgerCare Plus EE (Express Enrollment) for pregnant women or children identification card. ◦ Green paper temporary identification card. ◦ White paper TE (Temporary Enrollment) for Family Planning Only Services identification card. ◦ The response received through the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) from a commercial eligibility vendor. ◦ The transaction log number received through WiCall. 	ForwardHealth Good Faith/Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

ForwardHealth Reconsideration or Recoupment

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when ForwardHealth reconsiders a previously processed claim. ForwardHealth will initiate an adjustment on a previously paid claim.	If a subsequent provider submission is required, the request must be submitted within 90 days from the date of the RA (Remittance Advice) message. A copy of the RA message that shows the ForwardHealth-initiated adjustment must be submitted with the request.	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

Retroactive Enrollment for Persons on General Relief

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when the local county or tribal agency requests a return of a GR (general relief) payment from the provider because a member has become retroactively enrolled for Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus.	To receive consideration, the request must be submitted within 180 days from the date the backdated enrollment was added to the member's enrollment information. The request must be submitted with one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "GR retroactive enrollment" indicated on the claim. • A copy of the letter received from the local county or tribal agency. 	ForwardHealth GR Retro Eligibility Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

Medicare Denial Occurs After the Submission Deadline

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when claims submitted to Medicare (within 365 days of the DOS) are denied by Medicare after the 365-day submission deadline. A waiver of the submission deadline will not be granted when Medicare denies a claim for one of the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The charges were previously submitted to Medicare. • The member name and identification number do not match. • The services were previously denied by Medicare. • The provider retroactively applied for Medicare enrollment and did not become enrolled. 	To receive consideration, the following must be submitted within 90 days of the Medicare processing date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Medicare remittance information. • The appropriate Medicare disclaimer code must be indicated on the claim. 	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

Refund Request from an Other Health Insurance Source

Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when an other health insurance source reviews a previously paid claim and determines that reimbursement was inappropriate.	To receive consideration, the following documentation must be submitted within 90 days from the date of recoupment notification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the commercial health insurance remittance information. • A copy of the remittance information showing recoupment for crossover claims when Medicare is 	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

	recouping payment.	
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Retroactive Member Enrollment		
Description of the Exception	Documentation Requirements	Submission Address
This exception occurs when a claim cannot be submitted within the submission deadline due to a delay in the determination of a member's retroactive enrollment.	To receive consideration, the request must be submitted within 180 days from the date the backdated enrollment was added to the member's enrollment information. In addition, "retroactive enrollment" must be indicated on the claim.	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050

Coordination of Benefits

3

Archive Date:06/01/2011

Coordination of Benefits:Commercial Health Insurance

Topic #595

Assignment of Insurance Benefits

Assignment of insurance benefits is the process by which a specified party (e.g., provider or policyholder) becomes entitled to receive payment for claims in accordance with the insurance company policies.

Commercial health insurance companies may permit reimbursement to the provider or member. Providers should verify whether commercial health insurance benefits may be assigned to the provider. As indicated by the commercial health insurance, providers may be required to obtain approval from the member for this assignment of benefits.

If the provider is assigned benefits, providers should bill the commercial health insurance.

If the member is assigned insurance benefits, it is appropriate to submit a claim to ForwardHealth without billing the commercial health insurance. In this instance providers should indicate the appropriate other insurance indicator. ForwardHealth will bill the commercial health insurance.

Topic #844

Claims for Services Denied by Commercial Health Insurance

If commercial health insurance denies or recoups payment for services that are covered, the provider may submit a claim for those services. To allow payment in this situation, providers are encouraged to follow the requirements (e.g., request PA (prior authorization) before providing the service for covered services that require PA). If the requirements are followed, BadgerCare Plus may reimburse for the service up to the allowed amount (less any payments made by other health insurance sources).

Topic #598

Commercial Fee-for-Service

Fee-for-service commercial health insurance is the traditional health care payment system under which providers receive a payment for each unit of service provided rather than a capitation payment for each member. Such insurance usually does not restrict health care to a particular network of providers.

Topic #599

Commercial Managed Care

A commercial managed care plan provides coverage through a specified group of providers in a particular service area. The providers may be under contract with the commercial health insurance and receive payment based on the number of patients seen (i.e., capitation payment).

Commercial managed care plans require members to use a designated network of providers. Non-network providers (i.e., providers

who do not have a contract with the member's commercial managed care plan) will be reimbursed by the commercial managed care plan *only* if they obtain a referral or provide an emergency service.

Except for emergency services and covered services that are not covered under the commercial managed care plan, members enrolled in both a commercial managed care plan and BadgerCare Plus (i.e., state-contracted MCO (managed care organization), fee-for-service) are required to receive services from providers affiliated with the commercial managed care plan. In this situation, providers are required to refer the members to commercial managed care providers. This is necessary because commercial health insurance is always primary to BadgerCare Plus.

BadgerCare Plus will *not* reimburse the provider if the commercial managed care plan denied or would deny payment because a service otherwise covered under the commercial managed care plan was performed by a provider outside the plan. In addition, if a member receives a covered service outside his or her commercial managed care plan, the provider cannot collect payment from the member.

Topic #601

Definition of Commercial Health Insurance

Commercial health insurance is defined as any type of health benefit not obtained from Medicare or Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus. The insurance may be employer-sponsored or privately purchased. Commercial health insurance may be provided on a fee-for-service basis or through a managed care plan.

Topic #602

Discounted Rates

Providers of services that are discounted by commercial health insurance should include the following on claims submitted:

- Their [usual and customary charge](#).
- The appropriate other insurance indicator.
- The amount, if any, actually received from commercial health insurance as the amount paid by commercial health insurance.

Topic #596

Exhausting Commercial Health Insurance Sources

Providers are required to exhaust commercial health insurance sources before submitting claims to ForwardHealth. This is accomplished by following the process indicated in the following steps. Providers are required to prepare complete and accurate documentation of efforts to bill commercial health insurance to substantiate other insurance indicators used on any claim.

Step 1. Determine if the Member Has Commercial Health Insurance

If Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) does not indicate that the member has commercial health insurance, the provider may submit a claim to ForwardHealth unless the provider is otherwise aware of commercial health insurance coverage.

If the member disputes the information as it is indicated in the EVS, the provider should submit a completed [Other Coverage Discrepancy Report \(F-1159 \(10/08\)\)](#) form. Unless the service does not require other health insurance billing, the provider should allow at least two weeks before proceeding to Step 2.

Step 2. Determine if the Service Requires Other Health Insurance Billing

If the service requires other health insurance billing, the provider should proceed to Step 3.

If the service does not require other health insurance billing, the provider should proceed in one of the following ways:

- The provider is encouraged to bill commercial health insurance if he or she believes that benefits are available. Reimbursement from commercial health insurance may be greater than the BadgerCare Plus-allowed amount. If billing commercial health insurance first, the provider should proceed to Step 3.
- The provider may submit a claim without indicating an other insurance indicator on the claim.

The provider may not bill BadgerCare Plus and commercial health insurance simultaneously. Simultaneous billing may constitute fraud and interferes with BadgerCare Plus's ability to recover prior payments.

Step 3. Identify Assignment of Commercial Health Insurance Benefits

The provider should verify whether commercial health insurance benefits may be assigned to the provider. (As indicated by commercial health insurance, the provider may be required to obtain approval from the member for this assignment of benefits.)

The provider should proceed in one of the following ways:

- **If the provider is assigned benefits**, the provider should bill commercial health insurance and proceed to Step 4.
- **If the member is assigned insurance benefits**, the provider may submit a claim (without billing commercial health insurance) using the appropriate other insurance indicator.

If the commercial health insurance reimburses the member, the provider may collect the payment from the member. If the provider receives reimbursement from BadgerCare Plus and the member, the provider is required to return the lesser amount to BadgerCare Plus.

Step 4. Bill Commercial Health Insurance and Follow Up

If commercial health insurance denies or partially reimburses the provider for the claim, the provider may proceed to Step 5.

If commercial health insurance does not respond within 45 days, the provider should follow up the original claim with an inquiry to commercial health insurance to determine the disposition of the claim. If commercial health insurance does not respond within 30 days of the inquiry, the provider may proceed to Step 5.

Step 5. Submit Claim to ForwardHealth

If only partial reimbursement is received, if the correct and complete claim is denied by commercial health insurance, or if commercial health insurance does not respond to the original and follow-up claims, the provider may submit a claim to ForwardHealth using the appropriate other insurance indicator. Commercial remittance information should not be attached to the claim.

Topic #263

Members Unable to Obtain Services Under Managed Care Plan

Sometimes a member's enrollment file shows commercial managed care coverage, but the member is unable to receive services from the managed care plan. Examples of such situations include the following:

- Children enrolled in a commercial managed care plan by a noncustodial parent if the custodial parent refuses to use the coverage.
- Members enrolled in a commercial managed care plan who reside outside the service area of the managed care plan.
- Members enrolled in a commercial managed care plan who enter a nursing facility that limits the member's access to managed

care providers.

In these situations, BadgerCare Plus will pay for services covered by both BadgerCare Plus and the commercial managed care plan even though the services are obtained from providers outside the plan.

When submitting claims for these members, providers should do one of the following:

- Indicate "OI-Y" on paper claims.
- Refer to the Wisconsin [PES \(Provider Electronic Solutions\) Manual](#) or the appropriate [837 \(837 Health Care Claim\) companion document](#) to determine the appropriate other insurance indicator for electronic claims.

Topic #604

Non-Reimbursable Commercial Managed Care Services

Providers are not reimbursed for the following:

- Services covered by a commercial managed care plan, except for coinsurance, copayment, or deductible.
- Services for which providers contract with a commercial managed care plan to receive a capitation payment for services.

Topic #605

Other Insurance Indicators

Other insurance indicators are used to report results of commercial health insurance billing and to report when existing insurance was not billed. Providers are required to use these indicators as applicable on claims submitted for members with commercial health insurance. The intentional misuse of other insurance indicators to obtain inappropriate reimbursement constitutes fraud.

Other insurance indicators identify the status and availability of commercial health insurance. The indicators allow providers to be reimbursed correctly when the following occur:

- Commercial health insurance exists, does not apply, or when, for some valid reason, the provider is unable to obtain such reimbursement by reasonable means.
- Commercial health insurance does not cover the service provided.
- Full or partial payment was made by commercial health insurance.

Providers should not use other insurance indicators when the following occur:

- Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) indicates no commercial health insurance for the DOS (date of service).
- The service does not require other health insurance billing.
- Claim denials from other payers relating to NPI (National Provider Identifier) and related data should be resolved with that payer and not submitted to ForwardHealth. Payments made in these situations may be recouped.

Documentation Requirements

Providers are required to prepare and maintain truthful, accurate, complete, legible, and concise documentation of efforts to bill commercial health insurance sources to substantiate other insurance indicators used on any claim, according to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Topic #603

Services Not Requiring Commercial Health Insurance Billing

Providers are not required to bill commercial health insurance sources before submitting claims for the following:

- Case management services.
- CRS (Community Recovery Services).
- Family planning services.
- PNCC (prenatal care coordination) services.
- Preventive pediatric services.
- SMV (specialized medical vehicle) services.

Topic #769

Services Requiring Commercial Health Insurance Billing

If the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) indicates the code **"DEN"** for "Other Coverage," the provider is required to bill dental services to commercial health insurance before submitting claims to ForwardHealth.

If the EVS indicates that the member has Wausau Health Protection Plan (**"HPP"**), BlueCross & BlueShield (**"BLU"**), Wisconsin Physicians Service (**"WPS"**), TriCare (**"CHA"**), or some other (**"OTH"**) commercial health insurance, the provider is required to bill the following services to commercial health insurance before submitting claims to ForwardHealth:

- Ambulance services, if provided as emergency services.
- Anesthetist services.
- Audiology services, unless provided in a nursing home or SNF (skilled nursing facility).
- Blood bank services.
- Chiropractic services.
- CSP (community support program) services.
- Dental services.
- DME (durable medical equipment) (rental or purchase), prosthetics, and hearing aids if the billed amount is over \$10.00 per item.
- Home health services (excluding PC (personal care) services).
- Hospice services.
- Hospital services, including inpatient or outpatient.
- Independent nurse, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife services.
- Laboratory services.
- Medicare-covered services for members who have Medicare and commercial health insurance.
- Mental health/substance abuse services, including services delivered by providers other than physicians, regardless of POS (place of service).
- PT (physical therapy), OT (occupational therapy), and SLP (speech and language pathology) services, unless provided in a nursing home or SNF.
- Physician assistant services.
- Physician services, including surgery, surgical assistance, anesthesiology, or any service to a hospital inpatient. However, physician services provided to a woman whose primary diagnosis indicates a high-risk pregnancy do not require commercial health insurance billing.
- Pharmacy services for members with verified drug coverage.
- Podiatry services.
- PDN (private duty nursing) services for ventilator-dependent members.
- Radiology services.
- RHC (rural health clinic) services.

- Skilled nursing home care, if any DOS (date of service) is within 30 days of the date of admission. If benefits greater than 30 days are available, the nursing home is required to continue to bill for them until those benefits are exhausted.
- Vision services over \$50, unless provided in a home, nursing home, or SNF.

If the EVS indicates the code "**VIS**" for "Other Coverage", the provider is required to bill the following services to commercial health insurance before submitting claims to ForwardHealth:

- Ophthalmology services.
- Optometrist services.

If the EVS indicates the code "**HMO**" for "Other Coverage," the provider is required to bill the following services to commercial health insurance before submitting claims to ForwardHealth:

- Ambulance services, if provided as emergency services.
- Anesthetist services.
- Audiology services, unless provided in a nursing home or SNF.
- Blood bank services.
- Chiropractic services.
- CSP services.
- Dental services.
- DME (rental or purchase), prosthetics, and hearing aids if the billed amount is over \$10.00 per item.
- Home health services (excluding PC services).
- Hospice services.
- Hospital services, including inpatient or outpatient regardless of the type of hospital.
- Independent nurse, nurse practitioner, or nurse midwife services.
- Laboratory services.
- Medicare-covered services billed for a member who has both Medicare and commercial health insurance.
- Mental health/substance abuse services, including services delivered by providers other than physicians, regardless of POS.
- Pharmacy services for members with verified drug coverage.
- PT, OT, and SLP services, unless provided in a nursing home or SNF.
- Physician and physician assistant services.
- Podiatry services.
- PDN services for ventilator-dependent members.
- Radiology services.
- RHC services.
- Skilled nursing home care, if any DOS is within 30 days of the date of admission. If benefits greater than 30 days are available, the nursing home is required to continue to bill for them until those benefits are exhausted.
- Vision services over \$50, unless provided in a home, nursing home, or SNF.

If the EVS indicates Medicare Supplemental Plan Coverage ("**SUP**"), the provider is required to bill the following services to commercial health insurance before submitting claims to ForwardHealth:

- Alcohol, betadine, and/or iodine provided by a pharmacy or medical vendor.
- Ambulance services.
- Ambulatory surgery center services.
- Breast reconstruction services.
- Chiropractic services.
- Dental anesthesia services.
- Home health services (excluding PC services).
- Hospital services, including inpatient or outpatient.
- Medicare-covered services.
- Osteopath services.
- Physician services.
- Skilled nursing home care, if any DOS is within 100 days of the date of admission. If benefits greater than 100 days are

available, the nursing home is required to continue to bill for them until those benefits are exhausted.

BadgerCare Plus has identified [services requiring Medicare billing](#).

Medicare

Topic #664

Acceptance of Assignment

In Medicare, "assignment" is a process through which a provider agrees to accept the Medicare-allowed amount as payment in full. A provider who agrees to this amount is said to "accept assignment."

A Medicare-enrolled provider performing a Medicare-covered service for a dual eligible or [QMB-Only \(Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only\)](#) member is required to accept assignment of the member's Medicare Part B benefits. Therefore, total payment for the service (i.e., any amount paid by other health insurance sources, any copayment or spenddown amounts paid by the member, and any amount paid by Wisconsin Medicaid) may not exceed the Medicare-allowed amount.

Topic #666

Claims Denied for Errors

Medicare claims that were denied for provider billing errors must be corrected and resubmitted to Medicare before the claim may be submitted to ForwardHealth.

Topic #668

Claims Processed by Commercial Insurance That Is Secondary to Medicare

If a crossover claim is also processed by commercial health insurance that is secondary to Medicare (e.g., Medicare supplemental), the claim will not be forwarded to ForwardHealth. After the claim has been processed by the commercial health insurance, the provider should submit a provider-submitted crossover claim to ForwardHealth with the appropriate other insurance indicator.

Topic #670

Claims That Do Not Require Medicare Billing

For services provided to dual eligibles, claims should be submitted to ForwardHealth without first submitting them to Medicare in the following situations:

- The provider cannot be enrolled in Medicare.
- The service is not allowed by Medicare under any circumstance. Providers should note that claims are denied for services that Medicare has determined are not medically necessary.

In these situations, providers should not indicate a Medicare disclaimer code on the claim.

Topic #704

Claims That Fail to Cross Over

ForwardHealth must be able to identify the billing provider in order to report paid or denied Medicare crossover claims information on the RA (Remittance Advice). Claims with an NPI (National Provider Identifier) that fails to appear on the provider's RA are an indication that there is a problem with the matching and identification of the billing provider and the claims were denied.

ForwardHealth is not able to identify the billing provider on automatic crossover claims submitted by health care providers in the following situations:

- The billing provider's NPI has not been reported to ForwardHealth.
- The taxonomy code designated by ForwardHealth is required to identify the billing provider and is not indicated on the automatic crossover claim.
- The billing provider's practice location ZIP+4 code on file with ForwardHealth is required to identify the provider and is not indicated on the automatic crossover claim.

If automatic crossover claims do not appear on the RA after 30 days of the Medicare processing date, providers are required to resubmit the claim directly to ForwardHealth using the NPI that was reported to ForwardHealth as the primary NPI. Additionally, the taxonomy code designated by ForwardHealth and the ZIP+4 code of the practice location on file with ForwardHealth are required when additional data is needed to identify the provider.

Topic #667

Claims for Services Denied by Medicare

If Medicare denies or recoups payment for services provided to dual eligibles that are covered by BadgerCare Plus, the provider may submit a claim for those services directly to ForwardHealth. To allow payment by Wisconsin Medicaid in this situation, providers are encouraged to follow BadgerCare Plus requirements (e.g., request PA (prior authorization) before providing the service for covered services that require PA). If the requirements are followed, Wisconsin Medicaid may reimburse for the service up to the allowed amount (less any payments made by other health insurance sources).

Topic #671

Crossover Claims

A Medicare crossover claim is a Medicare-allowed claim for a dual eligible or QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) member sent to ForwardHealth for payment of coinsurance, copayment, and deductible.

Submit Medicare claims first, as appropriate, to one of the following:

- Medicare Part A fiscal intermediary.
- Medicare Part B carrier.
- Medicare DME (durable medical equipment) regional carrier.
- Medicare Advantage Plan.
- Railroad Retirement Board carrier (also known as the Railroad Medicare carrier).

There are two types of crossover claims based on who submits them:

- Automatic crossover claims.
- Provider-submitted crossover claims.

Automatic Crossover Claims

An automatic crossover claim is a claim that Medicare automatically forwards to ForwardHealth by the COBC (Coordination of Benefits Contractor).

Claims will be forwarded if the following occur:

- Medicare has identified that the services were provided to a dual eligible or a QMB-Only member.
- The claim is for a member who is not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Provider-Submitted Crossover Claims

A provider-submitted crossover claim is a Medicare-allowed claim that a provider directly submits to ForwardHealth when the Medicare claim did not automatically cross over. Providers should submit a provider-submitted crossover claim in the following situations:

- The automatic crossover claim does not appear on the ForwardHealth RA (Remittance Advice) within 30 days of the Medicare processing date.
- The automatic crossover claim is denied and additional information may allow payment.
- The claim is for a member who is enrolled in Medicare and commercial health insurance that is secondary to Medicare (e.g., Medicare Supplemental).
- The claim is for a member who was not enrolled in BadgerCare Plus at the time the service was submitted to Medicare for payment, but the member was retroactively determined enrolled in BadgerCare Plus.
- The claim is for a member who is enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

When submitting crossover claims directly, the following additional data may be required on the claim to identify the billing and rendering provider:

- The NPI (National Provider Identifier) that ForwardHealth has on file for the provider.
- Taxonomy code that is required by ForwardHealth.
- The ZIP+4 code that corresponds to the practice location address on file with ForwardHealth.

Providers may initiate a provider-submitted claim in one of the following ways:

- DDE (Direct Data Entry) through the ForwardHealth Provider Portal.
- 837I (837 Health Care Claim: Institutional) transaction, as applicable.
- 837P (837 Health Care Claim: Professional) transaction, as applicable.
- PES (Provider Electronic Solution) software.
- Paper claim form.

Topic #672

Definition of Medicare

Medicare is a health insurance program for people 65 years of age or older, for certain people with disabilities under age 65, and for people with ESRD (end-stage renal disease). Medicare is a federal government program created under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

Medicare coverage is divided into four parts:

- Part A (i.e., Hospital Insurance). Part A helps to pay for medically necessary services, including inpatient hospital services, services provided in critical access hospitals (i.e., small facilities that give limited inpatient services and outpatient services to

beneficiaries who reside in rural areas), services provided in skilled nursing facilities, hospice services, and some home health services.

- Part B (i.e., Supplemental Medical Insurance). Part B helps to pay for medically necessary services, including physician services, outpatient hospital services, and some other services that Part A does not cover (such as PT (physical therapy) services, OT (occupational therapy) services, and some home health services).
- Part C (i.e., Medicare Advantage).
- Part D (i.e., drug benefit).

Topic #684

Dual Eligibles

Dual eligibles are members who are eligible for coverage from Medicare (either Medicare Part A, Part B, or both) *and* Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus.

Dual eligibles may receive coverage for the following:

- Medicare monthly premiums for Part A, Part B, or both.
- Coinsurance, copayment, and deductible for Medicare-allowed services.
- BadgerCare Plus-covered services, even those that are not allowed by Medicare.

Topic #669

Exhausting Medicare Coverage

Providers are required to exhaust Medicare coverage before submitting claims to ForwardHealth. This is accomplished by following these instructions. Providers are required to prepare complete and accurate documentation of efforts to bill Medicare to substantiate Medicare disclaimer codes used on any claim.

Adjustment Request for Crossover Claim

The provider may submit a paper or electronic adjustment request. If submitting a paper [Adjustment/Reconsideration Request \(F-13046 \(10/08\)\)](#) form, the provider should attach a copy of Medicare remittance information. (If this is a Medicare reconsideration, copies of the original and subsequent Medicare remittance information should be attached.)

Provider-Submitted Crossover Claim

The provider may submit a provider-submitted crossover claim in the following situations:

- The claim is for a member who is enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.
- The automatic crossover claim is not processed by ForwardHealth within 30 days of the Medicare processing date.
- ForwardHealth denied the automatic crossover claim and additional information may allow payment.
- The claim is for a member who is enrolled in Medicare and commercial health insurance that is secondary to Medicare (e.g., Medicare Supplemental).
- The claim is for a member who was not enrolled in BadgerCare Plus at the time the service was submitted to Medicare for payment, but the member was retroactively enrolled.*

When submitting provider-submitted crossover claims, the provider is required to follow all claims submission requirements in addition to the following:

- For electronic claims, indicate the Medicare payment.
- For paper claims, the provider is required to do the following:

- Attach Medicare's remittance information and refrain from indicating the Medicare payment.
- Indicate "MMC (Medicare Managed Care)" in the upper right corner of the claim for services provided to members enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

When submitting provider-submitted crossover claims for members enrolled in Medicare and commercial health insurance that is secondary to Medicare, the provider is also required to do the following:

- Refrain from submitting the claim to ForwardHealth until after the claim has been processed by the commercial health insurance.
- Indicate the appropriate other insurance indicator.

* In this situation, a timely filing appeals request may be submitted if the services provided are beyond the claims submission deadline. The provider is required to indicate "retroactive enrollment" on the provider-submitted crossover claim and submit the claim with the [Timely Filing Appeals Request \(F-13047 \(10/08\)\)](#) form. The provider is required to submit the timely filing appeals request within 180 days from the date the backdated enrollment was added to the member's file.

Claim for Services Denied by Medicare

When Medicare denies payment for a service provided to a dual eligible that is covered by BadgerCare Plus, the provider may proceed as follows:

- Bill commercial health insurance, if applicable.
- Submit a claim to ForwardHealth using the appropriate Medicare disclaimer code. If applicable, the provider should indicate the appropriate other insurance indicator. A copy of Medicare remittance information should not be attached to the claim.

Crossover Claim Previously Reimbursed

A crossover claim may have been previously reimbursed by Wisconsin Medicaid when one of the following has occurred:

- Medicare reconsiders services that were previously not allowed.
- Medicare retroactively determines a member eligible.

In these situations, the provider should proceed as follows:

- Refund or adjust Medicaid payments for services previously reimbursed by Wisconsin Medicaid.
- Bill Medicare for the services and follow BadgerCare Plus's procedures for submitting crossover claims.

Topic #687

Medicare Advantage

Medicare services may be provided to dual eligibles or QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) members on a fee-for-service basis or through a Medicare Advantage Plan. Medicare Advantage was formerly known as Medicare Managed Care (MMC), Medicare + Choice (MPC), or Medicare Cost (Cost). Medicare Advantage Plans have a special arrangement with the federal CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and agree to provide all Medicare benefits to Medicare beneficiaries for a fee. Providers may contact Medicare for a list of Medicare Advantage Plans in Wisconsin and the insurance companies with which they are associated.

Paper Crossover Claims

Providers are required to indicate "MMC" in the upper right corner of provider-submitted crossover claims for services provided to members enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan. The claim must be submitted with a copy of the Medicare EOMB (Explanation of

Medicare Benefits). This is necessary in order for ForwardHealth to distinguish whether the claim has been processed as commercial managed care or Medicare managed care.

Crossover claims for Medicare Part B covered drugs for members enrolled in the Standard Plan, Medicaid, or SeniorCare with a Medicare Advantage plan will deny due to the Medicare Advantage plan being on the member's file. To be reimbursed, providers are required to submit a [Pharmacy Special Handling Request](#) and a [Noncompound Drug Claim](#). Providers should indicate the member is enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and indicate the Medicare Part B covered drug on the Pharmacy Special Handling Request.

Reimbursement Limits

Reimbursement limits on Medicare Part B services are applied to all Medicare Advantage Plan copayment amounts in accordance with federal law. This may reduce reimbursement amounts in some cases.

Topic #688

Medicare Disclaimer Codes

Medicare disclaimer codes are used to ensure consistent reporting of common billing situations for dual eligibles. Refer to claim instructions for Medicare disclaimer codes and their descriptions. The intentional misuse of Medicare disclaimer codes to obtain inappropriate reimbursement from Wisconsin Medicaid constitutes fraud.

Medicare disclaimer codes identify the status and availability of Medicare benefits. The code allows a provider to be reimbursed correctly by Wisconsin Medicaid when Medicare benefits exist or when, for some valid reason, the provider is unable to obtain such benefits by reasonable means.

When submitting a claim for a covered service that was denied by Medicare, providers should resubmit the claim *directly* to ForwardHealth using the appropriate Medicare disclaimer code.

Documentation Requirements

Providers are required to prepare and maintain truthful, accurate, complete, legible, and concise documentation of efforts to bill Medicare to substantiate Medicare disclaimer codes used on any claim, according to [DHS 106.02\(9\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Topic #689

Medicare Enrollment

Some providers may become retroactively enrolled in Medicare. Providers should contact Medicare for more information about retroactive enrollment.

Services for Dual Eligibles

As stated in [DHS 106.03\(6\)](#) and [106.03\(7\)\(b\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, a provider is required to be enrolled in Medicare if both of the following are true:

- He or she provides a Medicare Part B service to a dual eligible.
- He or she can be enrolled in Medicare.

If a provider can be enrolled in Medicare but chooses *not* to be, the provider is required to refer dual eligibles to another certified provider who is enrolled in Medicare.

To receive Medicaid reimbursement for a Medicare Part B service provided to a dual eligible, a provider who is not enrolled in Medicare but can be is required to apply for retroactive enrollment.

Services for Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only Members

Because QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) members receive coverage from Wisconsin Medicaid only for services allowed by Medicare, providers who are not enrolled in Medicare are required to refer QMB-Only members to another certified provider who is enrolled in Medicare.

Topic #8457

Medicare Late Fees

Medicare assesses a late fee when providers submit a claim after Medicare's claim submission deadline has passed. Claims that cross over to ForwardHealth with a Medicare late fee are denied for being out of balance. To identify these claims, providers should reference the Medicare remittance information and check for ANSI (American National Standards Institute) code B4 (Late filing penalty), which indicates a late fee amount deducted by Medicare.

ForwardHealth considers a late fee part of Medicare's paid amount for the claim because Medicare would have paid the additional amount if the claim had been submitted before the Medicare claim submission deadline. ForwardHealth will not reimburse providers for late fees assessed by Medicare.

Resubmitting Medicare Crossover Claims with Late Fees

Providers may resubmit to ForwardHealth crossover claims denied because the claim was out of balance due to a Medicare late fee. The claim may be submitted on paper, submitted electronically using the ForwardHealth Portal, or submitted as an 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transaction.

Paper Claim Submissions

When resubmitting a crossover claim on paper, include a copy of the Medicare remittance information so ForwardHealth can determine the amount of the late fee and apply the correct reimbursement amount.

Electronic Claim Submissions

When resubmitting a claim via the Portal or an electronic 837 transaction (including PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software submissions), providers are required to balance the claim's paid amount to reflect the amount Medicare would have paid before Medicare subtracted a late fee. This is the amount that ForwardHealth considers when adjudicating the claim. To balance the claim's paid amount, add the late fee to the paid amount reported by Medicare. Enter this amount in the Medicare paid amount field.

For example, the Medicare remittance information reports the following amounts for a crossover claim:

- Billed Amount: \$110.00.
- Allowed Amount: \$100.00.
- Coinsurance: \$20.00.
- Late Fee: \$5.00.
- Paid Amount: \$75.00.

Since ForwardHealth considers the late fee part of the paid amount, providers should add the late fee to the paid amount reported on the Medicare remittance. In the example above, add the late fee of \$5.00 to the paid amount of \$75.00 for a total of \$80.00. The claim should report the Medicare paid amount as \$80.00.

Topic #690

Medicare Retroactive Eligibility

If a member becomes retroactively eligible for Medicare, the provider is required to refund or adjust any Medicaid payments for the retroactive period. The provider is required to then bill Medicare for the services and follow ForwardHealth's procedures for submitting crossover claims. Claims found to be in conflict with this program requirement will be recouped.

Topic #895

Modifier for Catastrophe/Disaster-Related Crossover Claims

ForwardHealth accepts modifier "CR" (Catastrophe/disaster related) on Medicare crossover claims (both [837P](#) (837 Health Care Claim: Professional) transactions and 1500 Health Insurance Claim Forms) to accommodate the emergency health care needs of dual eligibles and QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) members affected by disasters. The [CMS \(Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services\) Web site](#) contains more information.

Topic #4957

Provider-Submitted Crossover Claims

A provider-submitted crossover claim is a Medicare-allowed claim that a provider directly submits to ForwardHealth when the Medicare claim did not automatically crossover to ForwardHealth.

Electronic Professional Crossover Claims

Providers submitting crossover claims electronically must indicate all Medicare coinsurance, copayment, and psychiatric reduction amounts at the detail level. If the Medicare coinsurance, copayment, and psychiatric reduction amounts are indicated at the header level, the claim will be denied. Providers may indicate deductibles in either the header or detail level.

When submitting electronic Medicare crossover claims, providers should not submit paper EOMB (Explanation of Medicare Benefits) as an attachment. Providers should, however, be sure to complete Medicare CAS segments when submitting 837 transactions.

Paper Professional Crossover Claims Require Provider Signature

All paper provider-submitted crossover claims submitted on the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form require a provider signature and date in Element 31. The words "signature on file" are not acceptable. Provider-submitted crossover claims without a signature or date are denied or are subject to recoupment. The provider signature requirement for paper crossover claims is the same requirement for all other paper 1500 Health Insurance Claims.

Topic #686

Reimbursement for Crossover Claims

Professional Crossover Claims

State law limits reimbursement for coinsurance and copayment of Medicare Part B services provided to dual eligibles and QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) members.

Total payment for a Medicare Part B service (i.e., any amount paid by other health insurance sources, any copayment or spenddown amounts paid by the member, and any amount paid by Wisconsin Medicaid) may not exceed the Medicare-allowed amount. Therefore, Medicaid reimbursement for coinsurance or copayment of a Medicare Part B service is the lesser of the following:

- The *Medicare*-allowed amount less any amount paid by other health insurance sources and any copayment or spenddown amounts paid by the member.
- The *Medicaid*-allowed amount less any amount paid by other health insurance sources and any copayment or spenddown amounts paid by the member.

The following table provides examples of how the limitations are applied.

Reimbursement for Coinsurance or Copayment of Medicare Part B Services			
Explanation	Example		
	1	2	3
Provider's billed amount	\$120	\$120	\$120
Medicare-allowed amount	\$100	\$100	\$100
Medicaid-allowed amount (e.g., maximum allowable fee, rate-per-visit)	\$90	\$110	\$75
Medicare payment	\$80	\$80	\$80
Medicaid payment	\$10	\$20	\$0

Outpatient Hospital Crossover Claims

Detail-level information is used to calculate pricing for all outpatient hospital crossover claims and adjustments. Details that Medicare paid in full or that Medicare denied in full will not be considered when pricing outpatient hospital crossover claims. Medicare deductibles are paid in full.

Providers may use the following steps to determine how reimbursement was calculated:

1. Sum all of the detail Medicare paid amounts to establish the Claim Medicare paid amount.
2. Sum all of the detail Medicare coinsurance or copayment amounts to establish the Claim Medicare coinsurance or copayment amount.
3. Multiply the number of DOS (dates of service) by the provider's rate-per-visit. For example, \$100 (rate-per-visit) x 3 (DOS) = \$300. This is the Medicaid gross allowed amount.
4. Compare the Medicaid gross allowed amount calculated in step 3 to the Claim Medicare paid amount calculated in step 1. If the Medicaid gross allowed amount is less than or equal to the Medicare paid amount, Wisconsin Medicaid will make no further payment to the provider for the claim. If the Medicaid gross allowed amount is greater than the Medicare paid amount, the difference establishes the Medicaid net allowed amount.
5. Compare the Medicaid net allowed amount calculated in step 4 and the Medicare coinsurance or copayment amount calculated in step 2. Wisconsin Medicaid reimburses the lower of the two amounts.

Topic #770

Services Requiring Medicare Billing

If the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) indicates Medicare + Choice ("**MPC**") for "Medicare Managed Care Coverage," the provider is required to bill the following services to the Medicare Advantage Plan before submitting claims to

ForwardHealth:

- Ambulance services.
- Ambulatory surgery center services.
- Chiropractic services.
- Dental anesthesia services.
- Home health services (excluding PC (personal care) services).
- Hospital services, including inpatient or outpatient.
- Medicare-covered services.
- Osteopath services.
- Physician services.

If the EVS indicates Medicare Cost ("**MCC**") for "Medicare Managed Care Coverage," the provider is required to bill the following services to the Medicare Advantage Plan before submitting claims to ForwardHealth:

- Ambulance services.
- Home health services (excluding PC services).
- Medicare-covered services.

ForwardHealth has identified [services requiring commercial health insurance billing](#).

Other Coverage Information

Topic #4940

After Reporting Discrepancies

After receiving an [Other Coverage Discrepancy Report \(F-1159 \(10/08\)\)](#), ForwardHealth confirms the information and updates the member files.

It may take up to two weeks to process and update the member's enrollment information. During that time, ForwardHealth verifies the insurance information submitted and adds, changes, or removes the member's other coverage information as appropriate. If verification contradicts the provider's information, a written explanation is sent to the provider. The provider should wait to submit claims until one of the following occurs:

- The provider verifies through Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) that the member's other coverage information has been updated.
- The provider receives a written explanation.

Topic #4941

Coverage Discrepancies

Maintaining complete and accurate insurance information may result in fewer claim denials. Providers are an important source of other coverage information as they are frequently the first to identify coverage discrepancies.

Topic #609

Insurance Disclosure Program

ForwardHealth receives policyholder files from most major commercial health insurance companies on a monthly basis. ForwardHealth then compares this information with member enrollment files. If a member has commercial health insurance, ForwardHealth revises the member's enrollment file with the most current information.

The insurance company is solely responsible for the accuracy of this data. If the insurance company provides information that is not current, ForwardHealth's files may be inaccurate.

Topic #610

Maintaining Accurate and Current Records

ForwardHealth uses many sources of information to keep accurate and current records of a member's other coverage, including the following:

- Insurance Disclosure program.
- Providers who submit an [Other Coverage Discrepancy Report \(F-1159 \(10/08\)\)](#) form.
- Member certifying agencies.
- Members.

The information about a member's other health insurance coverage in the member files may be incomplete or incorrect if ForwardHealth received inaccurate information from the other health insurance source or the member's certifying agency.

Topic #4942

Reporting Discrepancies

Providers are encouraged to report discrepancies to ForwardHealth by submitting the [Other Coverage Discrepancy Report \(F-1159 \(10/08\)\)](#) form. Providers are asked to complete the form in the following situations:

- The provider is aware of other coverage information that is not indicated by Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System).
- The provider received other coverage information that contradicts the information indicated by the EVS.
- A claim is denied because the EVS indicates commercial managed care coverage but the coverage is not available to the member (e.g., the member does not live in the plan's service area).

Providers should not use the Other Coverage Discrepancy Report form to update any information regarding a member's coverage in a state-contracted MCO (managed care organization).

When reporting discrepancies, providers should include photocopies of current insurance cards and any available documentation, such as remittance information and benefit coverage dates or denials.

Provider-Based Billing

Topic #660

Purpose of Provider-Based Billing

The purpose of provider-based billing is to reduce costs by ensuring that providers receive maximum reimbursement from other health insurance sources that are primary to BadgerCare Plus. For example, a provider-based billing claim is created when BadgerCare Plus pays a claim and later discovers that other coverage exists or was made retroactive. Since BadgerCare Plus benefits are secondary to those provided by most other health insurance sources, providers are required to seek reimbursement from the primary payer, as stated in [DHS 106.03\(7\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Topic #658

Questions About Provider-Based Billing

For questions about provider-based billing claims that are within the 120-day limit, providers may call the Coordination of Benefits Unit at (608) 221-4746. Providers may fax the corresponding Provider-Based Billing Summary to (608) 221-4567 at the time of the telephone call.

For questions about provider-based billing claims that are *not* within the 120-day limit, providers may call [Provider Services](#).

Topic #661

Receiving Notification

When a provider-based billing claim is created, the provider will receive the following:

- A notification letter.
- A Provider-Based Billing Summary. The Summary lists each claim from which a provider-based billing claim was created. The summary also indicates the corresponding primary payer for each claim.
- Provider-based billing claim(s). For each claim indicated on the Provider-Based Billing Summary, the provider will receive a prepared provider-based billing claim. This claim may be used to bill the other health insurance source; the claim includes all of the other health insurance source's information that is available.

If a member has coverage through multiple other health insurance sources, the provider may receive additional Provider-Based Billing Summaries and provider-based billing claims for each other health insurance source that is on file.

Topic #659

Responding to ForwardHealth After 120 Days

If a response is not received within 120 days, the amount originally paid by BadgerCare Plus will be withheld from future payments. This is not a final action. To receive payment after the original payment has been withheld, providers are required to submit the required documentation to the appropriate address as indicated in the following tables. For DOS (dates of service) that are within claims submission deadlines, providers should refer to the first table. For DOS that are beyond claims submission deadlines, providers should refer to the second table.

Within Claims Submission Deadlines		
Scenario	Documentation Requirement	Submission Address
The provider discovers through the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) that ForwardHealth has removed or enddated the other health insurance coverage from the member's file.	A claim according to normal claims submission procedures (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim).	ForwardHealth Claims and Adjustments 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0002
The provider discovers that the member's other coverage information (i.e., enrollment dates) reported by the EVS is invalid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Other Coverage Discrepancy Report (F-1159 (10/08)) form. A claim according to normal claims submission procedures after verifying that the member's other coverage information has been updated by using the EVS (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). 	<p>Send the Other Coverage Discrepancy Report form to the address indicated on the form.</p> <p>Send the claim to the following address:</p> <p>ForwardHealth Claims and Adjustments 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0002</p>
The other health insurance source reimburses or partially reimburses the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A claim according to normal claims submission procedures (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). The appropriate other insurance indicator. The amount received from the other health insurance source. 	ForwardHealth Claims and Adjustments 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0002
The other health insurance source denies the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A claim according to normal claims submission procedures (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). The appropriate other insurance indicator or Medicare disclaimer code. 	ForwardHealth Claims and Adjustments 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0002
The commercial health insurance carrier does not respond to an initial <i>and</i> follow-up provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A claim according to normal claims submission procedures (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). The appropriate other insurance indicator. 	ForwardHealth Claims and Adjustments 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0002

Beyond Claims Submission Deadlines		
Scenario	Documentation Requirement	Submission Address
The provider discovers through the EVS that ForwardHealth has removed or enddated the other health insurance coverage from the member's file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A claim (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). A Timely Filing Appeals Request (F-13047 (10/08)) form according to normal timely filing appeals procedures. 	ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050
The provider discovers that the member's other coverage information (i.e., enrollment dates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Other Coverage Discrepancy Report form. <i>After</i> using the EVS to verify that the member's other coverage information has been updated, 	Send the Other Coverage Discrepancy Report form to the address indicated on the form.

reported by the EVS is invalid.	<p>include both of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A claim (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim.) ○ A Timely Filing Appeals Request form according to normal timely filing appeals procedures. 	<p>Send the timely filing appeals request to the following address:</p> <p>ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050</p>
The commercial health insurance carrier reimburses or partially reimburses the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A claim (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). ● Indicate the appropriate other insurance indicator. ● Indicate the amount received from the commercial insurance. ● A Timely Filing Appeals Request form according to normal timely filing appeals procedures. 	<p>ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050</p>
The other health insurance source denies the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A claim (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). ● The appropriate other insurance indicator or Medicare disclaimer code. ● A Timely Filing Appeals Request form according to normal timely filing appeals procedures. ● The Provider-Based Billing Summary. ● Documentation of the denial, including any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remittance information from the other health insurance source. ○ A written statement from the other health insurance source identifying the reason for denial. ○ A letter from the other health insurance source indicating a policy termination date that proves that the other health insurance source paid the member. ○ A copy of the insurance card or other documentation from the other health insurance source that indicates that the policy provides limited coverage such as pharmacy, dental, or Medicare supplemental coverage only. ● The DOS, other health insurance source, billed amount, and procedure code indicated on the documentation must match the information on the Provider-Based Billing Summary. 	<p>ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050</p>
The commercial health insurance carrier does not respond to an initial and follow-up provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A claim (do <i>not</i> use the prepared provider-based billing claim). ● The appropriate other insurance indicator. ● A Timely Filing Appeals Request form according to normal timely filing appeals procedures. 	<p>ForwardHealth Timely Filing Ste 50 6406 Bridge Rd Madison WI 53784-0050</p>

Topic #662

Responding to ForwardHealth Within 120 Days

Within 120 days of the date on the Provider-Based Billing Summary, the Provider-Based Billing Unit must receive documentation verifying that one of the following occurred:

- The provider discovers through the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) that ForwardHealth has removed or ended the other health insurance coverage from the member's file.
- The provider verifies that the member's other coverage information reported by ForwardHealth is invalid.
- The other health insurance source reimbursed or partially reimbursed the provider-based billing claim.
- The other health insurance source denied the provider-based billing claim.
- The other health insurance source failed to respond to an initial *and* follow-up provider-based billing claim.

When responding to ForwardHealth within 120 days, providers are required to submit the required documentation to the appropriate address as indicated in the following table. If the provider's response to ForwardHealth does not include all of the required documentation, the information will be returned to the provider. The provider is required to send the complete information within the original 120-day limit.

Scenario	Documentation Requirement	Submission Address
The provider discovers through the EVS that ForwardHealth has removed or ended the other health insurance coverage from the member's file.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provider-Based Billing Summary. • Indication that the EVS no longer reports the member's other coverage. 	ForwardHealth Provider-Based Billing PO Box 6220 Madison WI 53716-0220 Fax (608) 221-4567
The provider discovers that the member's other coverage information (i.e., enrollment dates) reported by the EVS is invalid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provider-Based Billing Summary. • One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The name of the person with whom the provider spoke and the member's correct other coverage information. ◦ A printed page from an enrollment Web site containing the member's correct other coverage information. 	ForwardHealth Provider-Based Billing PO Box 6220 Madison WI 53716-0220 Fax (608) 221-4567
The other health insurance source reimburses or partially reimburses the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provider-Based Billing Summary. • A copy of the remittance information received from the other health insurance source. • The DOS (date of service), other health insurance source, billed amount, and procedure code indicated on the other insurer's remittance information must match the information on the Provider-Based Billing Summary. <p><i>Note:</i> In this situation, ForwardHealth will initiate an adjustment if the amount of the other health insurance payment does not exceed the allowed amount (even though an adjustment request should not be submitted). However, providers (except nursing home and hospital providers) may issue a cash refund. Providers who choose this option should include a refund check but should not use the Claim Refund form.</p>	ForwardHealth Provider-Based Billing PO Box 6220 Madison WI 53716-0220 Fax (608) 221-4567
The other health insurance source denies the provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provider-Based Billing Summary. • Documentation of the denial, including any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Remittance information from the other health insurance source. 	ForwardHealth Provider-Based Billing PO Box 6220 Madison WI 53716-0220

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A letter from the other health insurance source indicating a policy termination date that precedes the DOS. ○ Documentation indicating that the other health insurance source paid the member. ○ A copy of the insurance card or other documentation from the other health insurance source that indicates the policy provides limited coverage such as pharmacy, dental, or Medicare supplemental coverage. ● The DOS, other health insurance source, billed amount, and procedure code indicated on the documentation must match the information on the Provider-Based Billing Summary. 	Fax (608) 221-4567
The other health insurance source fails to respond to the initial <i>and</i> follow-up provider-based billing claim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Provider-Based Billing Summary. ● Indication that no response was received by the other health insurance source. ● Indication of the dates that the initial and follow-up provider-based billing claims were submitted to the other health insurance source. 	ForwardHealth Provider-Based Billing PO Box 6220 Madison WI 53716-0220 Fax (608) 221-4567

Topic #663

Submitting Provider-Based Billing Claims

For each provider-based billing claim, the provider is required to send a claim to the appropriate other health insurance source. The provider may use the claim prepared by ForwardHealth or produce his or her own claim. If the other health insurance source requires information beyond what is indicated on the prepared claim, the provider should add that information to the claim. The providers should also attach additional documentation (e.g., Medicare's remittance information) if required by the other health insurance source.

Reimbursement for Services Provided for Accident Victims

Topic #657

Billing Options

Providers may choose to seek payment from either of the following:

- Civil liabilities (e.g., injuries from an automobile accident).
- Worker's compensation.

However, as stated in [DHS 106.03\(8\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, BadgerCare Plus will not reimburse providers if they receive payment from either of these sources.

The provider may choose a different option for each DOS (date of service). For example, the decision to submit one claim to ForwardHealth does not mean that all claims pertaining to the member's accident must be submitted to ForwardHealth.

Topic #829

Points of Consideration

Providers should consider the time and costs involved when choosing whether to submit a claim to ForwardHealth or seek payment from a settlement.

Time

Providers are not required to seek payment from worker's compensation or civil liabilities, rather than seeking reimbursement from BadgerCare Plus, because of the time involved to settle these cases. While some worker's compensation cases and certain civil liability cases may be settled quickly, others may take several years before settlement is reached.

Costs

Providers may receive more than the allowed amount from the settlement; however, in some cases the settlement may not be enough to cover all costs involved.

Topic #826

Seeking Payment from Settlement

After choosing to seek payment from a settlement, the provider may *instead* submit the claim to ForwardHealth as long as it is submitted before the claims submission deadline. For example, the provider may instead choose to submit the claim to ForwardHealth because no reimbursement was received from the liability settlement or because a settlement has not yet been reached.

Topic #827

Submitting Claims to ForwardHealth

If the provider chooses to submit a claim to ForwardHealth, he or she may not seek further payment for that claim in any liability settlement that may follow. Once a claim is submitted to ForwardHealth, the provider may not decide to seek reimbursement for that claim in a liability settlement. Refunding payment and then seeking payment from a settlement may constitute a felony. If a settlement occurs, ForwardHealth retains the sole right to recover medical costs.

Providers are required to indicate when services are provided to an accident victim on claims submitted to ForwardHealth. If the member has other health insurance coverage, the provider is required to exhaust the other health insurance sources before submitting the claim to ForwardHealth.

Covered and Noncovered Services

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Archive Date:06/01/2011

Covered and Noncovered Services:Codes

Topic #830

Diagnosis Codes

All diagnosis codes indicated on claims (and PA (prior authorization) requests when applicable) must be the most specific ICD-9-CM (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification) diagnosis code. Providers are responsible for keeping current with diagnosis code changes. Etiology and manifestation codes may not be used as a primary diagnosis.

The required use of valid diagnosis codes includes the use of the most specific diagnosis code. Valid, most specific diagnosis codes may have up to five digits. Claims submitted with three- or four-digit codes where four- and five-digit codes are available may be denied.

Topic #550

Procedure Code

Providers are required to use HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) procedure code G9002 (coordinated care fee, maintenance rate) when submitting claims for community care organizations.

Topic #643

Unlisted Procedure Codes

According to the HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) code book, if a service is provided that is not accurately described by other HCPCS/CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) procedure codes, the service should be reported using an unlisted procedure code.

Before considering using an unlisted, or NOC (not otherwise classified), procedure code, a provider should determine if there is another more specific code that could be indicated to describe the procedure or service being performed/provided. If there is no more specific code available, the provider is required to submit the appropriate documentation, which could include a PA (prior authorization) request, to justify use of the unlisted procedure code and to describe the procedure or service rendered. Submitting the proper documentation, which could include a PA request, may result in more timely claims processing.

Unlisted procedure codes should not be used to request adjusted reimbursement for a procedure for which there is a more specific code available.

Unlisted Codes That Do Not Require Prior Authorization or Additional Supporting Documentation

For a limited group of unlisted procedure codes, ForwardHealth has established specific policies for their use and associated reimbursement. These codes do not require PA or additional documentation to be submitted with the claim. Providers should refer to their service-specific area of the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal for details about these unlisted codes.

For most unlisted codes, ForwardHealth requires additional documentation.

Unlisted Codes That Require Prior Authorization

Certain unlisted procedure codes require PA. Providers should follow their service-specific PA instructions and documentation requirements for requesting PA. For a list of procedure codes for which ForwardHealth requires PA, refer to the service-specific interactive [maximum allowable fee schedules](#).

In addition to a properly completed PA request, documentation submitted on the service-specific PA attachment or as additional supporting documentation with the PA request should provide the following information:

- Specifically identify or describe the name of the procedure/service being performed or billed under the unlisted code.
- List/justify why other codes are not appropriate.
- Include only relevant documentation.
- Include all required clinical/supporting documentation.

For most situations, once the provider has an approved PA request for the unlisted procedure code, there is no need to submit additional documentation along with the claim.

Unlisted Codes That Do Not Require Prior Authorization

If an unlisted procedure code does not require PA, documentation submitted with the claim to justify use of the unlisted code and to describe the procedure/service rendered must be sufficient to allow ForwardHealth to determine the nature and scope of the procedure and to determine whether or not the procedure is covered and was medically necessary, as defined in Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The documentation submitted should provide the following information related to the unlisted code:

- Specifically identify or describe the name of the procedure/service being performed or billed under the unlisted code.
- List/justify why other codes are not appropriate.
- Include only relevant documentation.

How to Submit Claims and Related Documentation

Claims including an unlisted procedure code and supporting documentation may be submitted to ForwardHealth in the following ways:

- On paper with supporting information/description included in Element 19 of the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- On paper with supporting documentation submitted on paper. This option should be used if Element 19 does not allow enough space for the description or when billing multiple unlisted procedure codes. Providers should indicate "See Attachment" in Element 19 of the paper claim and send the supporting documentation along with the paper claim.
- Electronically, either using Direct Data Entry through the ForwardHealth Portal, PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) transactions, or 837 Health Care Claim electronic transactions, with supporting documentation included electronically in the Notes field. The Notes field is limited to 80 characters.
- Electronically with an indication that supporting documentation will be submitted separately on paper. This option should be used if the Notes field does not allow enough space for the description or when billing multiple unlisted procedure codes. Providers should indicate "See Attachment" in the Notes field of the electronic transaction and submit the supporting documentation on paper.

Covered Services and Requirements

Topic #44

Definition of Covered Services

A covered service is a service, item, or supply for which reimbursement is available when *all* program requirements are met. [DHS 101.03\(35\)](#) and [107](#), Wis. Admin. Code, contain more information about covered services.

Topic #85

Emergencies

Certain program requirements and reimbursement procedures are modified in emergency situations. Emergency services are defined in [DHS 101.03\(52\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, as "those services that are necessary to prevent the death or serious impairment of the health of the individual." Emergency services are not reimbursed unless they are covered services.

Additional definitions and procedures for emergencies exist in other situations, such as dental and mental health.

Program requirements and reimbursement procedures may be modified in the following ways:

- PA (prior authorization) or other program requirements may be waived in emergency situations.
- [Noncertified providers](#) may be reimbursed for emergency services.
- [Non-U.S. citizens](#) may be eligible for covered services in emergency situations.

Topic #84

Medical Necessity

Wisconsin Medicaid reimburses only for services that are medically necessary as defined under [DHS 101.03\(96m\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code. Wisconsin Medicaid may deny or recoup payment if a service fails to meet Medicaid medical necessity requirements.

Topic #86

Member Payment for Covered Services

Under state and federal laws, a Medicaid-certified provider may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for covered services even if the services are covered but do not meet program requirements. Denial of a claim by ForwardHealth does not necessarily render a member liable. However, a covered service for which PA (prior authorization) was denied is treated as a noncovered service. (If a member chooses to receive an originally requested service instead of the service approved on a modified PA request, it is also treated as a noncovered service.) If a member requests a covered service for which PA was denied (or modified), the provider may collect payment from the member if [certain conditions](#) are met.

If a provider collects payment from a member, or an authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for a covered service, the provider may be subject to [program sanctions](#) including termination of Medicaid certification.

Topic #66

Program Requirements

For a covered service to meet program requirements, the service must be provided by a qualified Medicaid-certified provider to an enrolled member. In addition, the service must meet all applicable program requirements, including, but not limited to, medical necessity, PA (prior authorization), claims submission, prescription, and documentation requirements.

Topic #824

Services That Do Not Meet Program Requirements

As stated in [DHS 107.02\(2\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, BadgerCare Plus may deny or recoup payment for covered services that fail to meet program requirements.

Examples of covered services that do not meet program requirements include the following:

- Services for which records or other documentation were not prepared or maintained.
- Services for which the provider fails to meet any or all of the requirements of [DHS 106.03](#), Wis. Admin. Code, including, but not limited to, the requirements regarding timely submission of claims.
- Services that fail to comply with requirements or state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations.
- Services that the DHS (Department of Health Services), the PRO (Peer Review Organization) review process, or BadgerCare Plus determines to be inappropriate, in excess of accepted standards of reasonableness or less costly alternative services, or of excessive frequency or duration.
- Services provided by a provider who fails or refuses to meet and maintain any of the certification requirements under [DHS 105](#), Wis. Admin. Code.
- Services provided by a provider who fails or refuses to provide access to records.
- Services provided inconsistent with an intermediate sanction or sanctions imposed by the DHS.

Noncovered Services

Topic #68

Definition of Noncovered Services

A noncovered service is a service, item, or supply for which reimbursement is not available. [DHS 101.03\(103\)](#) and [107](#), Wis. Admin. Code, contain more information about noncovered services. In addition, [DHS 107.03](#), Wis. Admin. Code, contains a general list of noncovered services.

Topic #104

Member Payment for Noncovered Services

A provider may collect payment from a member for noncovered services if [certain conditions](#) are met.

Providers may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for certain noncovered services or activities provided in connection with covered services, including the following:

- Charges for missed appointments.
- Charges for telephone calls.
- Charges for time involved in completing necessary forms, claims, or reports.
- Translation services.

Missed Appointments

The federal CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) does not allow state Medicaid programs to permit providers to collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for a missed appointment.

Avoiding Missed Appointments

ForwardHealth offers the following suggestions to help avoid missed appointments:

- Remind members of upcoming appointments (by telephone or postcard) prior to scheduled appointments.
- Encourage the member to call his or her local county or tribal agency if transportation is needed.
- If the appointment is made through the HealthCheck screening or targeted case management programs, encourage the staff from those programs to ensure that the scheduled appointments are kept.

Translation Services

Translation services are considered part of the provider's overhead cost and are not separately reimbursable. Providers may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for translation services.

Providers should call the Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Compliance Officer at (608) 266-9372 for information about when translation services are required by federal law. Providers may also write to the following address:

AA/CRC Office
1 W Wilson St Rm 561

PO Box 7850
Madison WI 53707-7850

Managed Care

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Archive Date:06/01/2011

Managed Care:Claims

Topic #385

Appeals to BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid

The provider has 60 calendar days to file an appeal with BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid after the HMO (health maintenance organization) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO either does not respond in writing within 45 calendar days or if the provider is dissatisfied with the HMO's or SSI HMO's response.

BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid will not review appeals that were not first made to the HMO or SSI HMO. If a provider sends an appeal directly to BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid without first filing it with the HMO or SSI HMO, the appeal will be returned to the provider.

Appeals will only be reviewed for enrollees who were eligible for and who were enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus HMO or Medicaid SSI HMO on the date of service in question.

Appeals must be made in writing and must include:

- A letter, clearly marked "APPEAL," explaining why the claim should be paid or a completed [Managed Care Program Provider Appeal](#) (F-12022 (03/09)) form.
- A copy of the claim, clearly marked "APPEAL."
- A copy of the provider's letter to the HMO or SSI HMO.
- A copy of the HMO's or SSI HMO's response to the provider.
- Any documentation that supports the case.

The appeal will be reviewed and any additional information needed will be requested from the provider or the HMO or SSI HMO. Once all pertinent information is received, BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid has 45 calendar days to make a final decision.

The provider and the HMO or SSI HMO will be notified in writing of the final decision. If the decision is in favor of the provider, the HMO or SSI HMO is required to pay the provider within 45 calendar days of the final decision. The decision is final, and all parties must abide by the decision.

Topic #384

Appeals to HMOs and SSI HMOs

Providers are required to first file an appeal directly with the BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO within 60 calendar days of receipt of the initial denial. Providers are required to include a letter explaining why the HMO or SSI HMO should pay the claim. The appeal should be sent to the address indicated on the HMO's or SSI HMO's denial notice.

The HMO or SSI HMO then has 45 calendar days to respond in writing to the appeal. The HMO or SSI HMO decides whether to pay the claim and sends the provider a letter stating the decision.

If the HMO or SSI HMO does not respond in writing within 45 calendar days, or if the provider is dissatisfied with the HMO's or SSI HMO's response, the provider may send a written appeal to ForwardHealth within 60 calendar days.

Topic #386

Claims Submission

BadgerCare Plus HMOs (health maintenance organizations) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs have requirements for timely filing of claims, and providers are required to follow HMO and SSI HMO claims submission guidelines. Contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO for organization-specific submission deadlines.

Topic #387

Extraordinary Claims

Extraordinary claims are BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid claims for a BadgerCare Plus HMO or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollee that have been denied by an HMO or SSI HMO but may be paid as fee-for-service claims.

The following are some examples of extraordinary claims situations:

- The enrollee was not enrolled in an HMO or SSI HMO at the time he or she was admitted to an inpatient hospital, but then enrolled in an HMO or SSI HMO during the hospital stay. In this case, all claims related to the stay (including physician claims) should be submitted to fee-for-service. For the physician claims associated with the inpatient hospital stay, the provider is required to include the date of admittance and date of discharge in Element 18 of the paper 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form.
- The claims are for orthodontia/prosthodontia services that began before HMO or SSI HMO coverage. Include a record with the claim of when the bands were placed.

Submitting Extraordinary Claims

When submitting an extraordinary claim, include the following:

- A legible copy of the completed claim form, in accordance with billing guidelines.
- A letter detailing the problem, any claim denials, and any steps taken to correct the situation.

Submit extraordinary claims to:

ForwardHealth
Managed Care Extraordinary Claims
PO Box 6470
Madison WI 53716-0470

Topic #388

Medicaid as Payer of Last Resort

Wisconsin Medicaid is the payer of last resort for most covered services, even when a member is enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO. Before submitting claims to HMOs and SSI HMOs, providers are required to submit claims to other health insurance sources. Contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO for more information about billing other health insurance sources.

Topic #389

Provider Appeals

When a BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO denies a provider's claim, the HMO or SSI HMO is required to send the provider a notice informing him or her of the right to file an appeal.

An HMO or SSI HMO network or non-network provider may file an appeal to the HMO or SSI HMO when:

- A claim submitted to the HMO or SSI HMO is denied payment.
- The full amount of a submitted claim is not paid.

Providers are required to file an appeal with the HMO or SSI HMO *before* filing an appeal with ForwardHealth.

Covered and Noncovered Services

Topic #390

Covered Services

HMOs

HMOs (health maintenance organizations) are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements. Although BadgerCare Plus requires contracted HMOs and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs to provide all medically necessary covered services, the following services may be provided by BadgerCare Plus HMOs at their discretion:

- Dental.
- Chiropractic.

If the HMO does not include these services in their benefit package, the enrollee receives the services on a fee-for-service basis.

Topic #391

Noncovered Services

The following are not covered by BadgerCare Plus HMOs (health maintenance organizations) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs but are provided to enrollees on a fee-for-service basis provided the member's fee-for-service plan covers the service:

- CRS (Community Recovery Services).
- CSP (Community Support Program) benefits.
- Crisis intervention services.
- Environmental lead inspections.
- CCC (Child Care Coordination) services.
- Pharmacy services and some drug-related supplies.
- PNCC (Prenatal Care Coordination) services.
- Provider-administered drugs, including all "J" codes, drug-related "Q" codes, and a limited number of related [administration codes](#).
- SBS (school-based services).
- Targeted case management services.
- Transportation by common carrier (unless the HMO has made arrangements to provide this service as a benefit). Milwaukee HMOs and SSI HMOs are mandated to provide transportation for their enrollees.
- Directly observed therapy and monitoring for TB-only (Tuberculosis-Only Related Services).

Enrollment

Topic #392

Disenrollment and Exemptions

In some situations, a member may be exempt from enrolling in a BadgerCare Plus HMO or Medicaid SSI HMO. Exempted members receive health care under fee-for-service. Exemptions allow members to complete a course of treatment with a provider who is not contracted with the member's HMO or SSI HMO. For example, in certain circumstances, women in high-risk pregnancies or women who are in the third trimester of pregnancy when they are enrolled in an HMO or SSI HMO *may* qualify for an exemption.

The [contracts](#) between the DHS (Department of Health Services) and the HMO or SSI HMO provide more detail on the exemption and disenrollment requirements.

Topic #393

Enrollee Grievances

Enrollees have the right to file grievances about services or benefits provided by a BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO. Enrollees also have the right to file a grievance when the HMO or SSI HMO refuses to provide a service. All HMOs and SSI HMOs are required to have written policies and procedures in place to handle enrollee grievances. Enrollees should be encouraged to work with their HMO's or SSI HMO's customer service department to resolve problems first.

If enrollees are unable to resolve problems by talking to their HMO or SSI HMO, or if they would prefer to speak with someone outside their HMO or SSI HMO, they should contact the [Enrollment Specialist](#) or the [Ombudsman Program](#).

The [contracts](#) between the DHS (Department of Health Services) and the HMO or SSI HMO describes the responsibilities of the HMO or SSI HMO and the DHS regarding enrollee grievances.

Topic #397

Enrollment Eligibility

BadgerCare Plus HMOs

Members enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan are eligible for enrollment in a BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization). BadgerCare Plus Core Plan members are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus HMOs.

An individual who receives Family Planning Only Services, the TB-Only (Tuberculosis-Related Services-Only) benefit, SeniorCare, or Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid cannot be enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus HMO.

Information about a member's HMO enrollment status and commercial health insurance coverage may be verified by using Wisconsin's [EVS \(Enrollment Verification System\)](#) or the ForwardHealth Portal.

SSI HMOs

Members of the following subprograms are eligible for enrollment in a Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO:

- Individuals ages 19 and older, who meet the SSI and SSI-related disability criteria.
- Dual eligibles for Medicare and Medicaid.

Individuals who are living in an institution, nursing home, or participating in a Home and Community-Based Waiver program are not eligible to enroll in an SSI MCO. (managed care organization)

Topic #394

Enrollment Periods

HMOs

Members are sent enrollment packets that explain the BadgerCare Plus HMOs (health maintenance organizations) and the enrollment process and provide contact information. Once enrolled, enrollees may change their HMO assignment within the first 90 days of enrollment in an HMO (whether they chose the HMO or were auto-assigned). If an enrollee no longer meets the criteria, he or she will be disenrolled from the HMO.

SSI HMOs

Members are sent enrollment packets that explain the Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO's enrollment process and provide contact information. Once enrolled, enrollees may disenroll after a 60-day trial period and up to 120 days after enrollment and return to Medicaid fee-for-service if they choose.

Topic #395

Enrollment Specialist

The [Enrollment Specialist](#) provides objective enrollment, education, outreach, and advocacy services to BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollees. The Enrollment Specialist is a knowledgeable single point of contact for enrollees, solely dedicated to managed care issues. The Enrollment Specialist is not affiliated with any health care agency.

The Enrollment Specialist provides the following services to HMO and SSI HMO enrollees:

- Education regarding the correct use of HMO and SSI HMO benefits.
- Telephone and face-to-face support.
- Assistance with enrollment, disenrollment, and exemption procedures.

Topic #398

Member Enrollment

HMOs

BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) enrollment is either mandatory or voluntary based on ZIP code-defined enrollment areas as follows:

- Mandatory enrollment — Enrollment is mandatory for eligible members who reside in ZIP code areas served by two or more BadgerCare Plus HMOs. Some members may meet criteria for exemption from BadgerCare Plus HMO enrollment.
- Voluntary enrollment — Enrollment is voluntary for members who reside in ZIP code areas served by only one BadgerCare Plus HMO.

Members living in areas where enrollment is mandatory are encouraged to choose their BadgerCare Plus HMO. Automatic assignment to a BadgerCare Plus HMO occurs if the member does not choose a BadgerCare Plus HMO. In general, all members of a member's immediate family eligible for enrollment must choose the same HMO.

Members in voluntary enrollment areas can choose whether or not to enroll in a BadgerCare Plus HMO. There is no automatic assignment for members who live within ZIP codes where enrollment is voluntary.

SSI HMOs

Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollment is either mandatory or voluntary as follows:

- Mandatory enrollment — Most SSI and SSI-related members are required to enroll in an SSI HMO. A member may choose the SSI HMO in which he or she wishes to enroll.
- Voluntary enrollment — Some SSI and SSI-related members may choose to enroll in an SSI HMO on a voluntary basis.

Topic #396

Ombudsman Program

The [Ombudsmen](#), or Ombuds, are resources for enrollees who have questions or concerns about their BadgerCare Plus HMO or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO. Ombuds provide advocacy and assistance to help enrollees understand their rights and responsibilities in the grievance and appeal process.

Ombuds can be contacted at the following address:

BadgerCare Plus HMO/Medicaid SSI HMO Ombudsmen
PO Box 6470
Madison WI 53716-0470

Topic #399

Release of Billing or Medical Information

BadgerCare Plus supports BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollee rights regarding the confidentiality of health care records. BadgerCare Plus has [specific standards](#) regarding the release of an HMO or SSI HMO enrollee's billing information or medical claim records.

Managed Care Information

Topic #401

BadgerCare Plus HMO Program

An HMO (health maintenance organization) is a system of health care providers that provides a comprehensive range of medical services to a group of enrollees. HMOs receive a fixed, prepaid amount per enrollee from BadgerCare Plus (called a capitation payment) to provide medically necessary services.

BadgerCare Plus HMOs are responsible for providing or arranging all contracted covered medically necessary services to enrollees. BadgerCare Plus members enrolled in state-contracted HMOs are entitled to at least the same benefits as fee-for-service members; however, HMOs may establish their own requirements regarding PA (prior authorization), claims submission, adjudication procedures, etc., which may differ from BadgerCare Plus fee-for-service policies and procedures. BadgerCare Plus HMO network providers should contact their HMO for more information about its policies and procedures.

Topic #405

Managed Care

Managed Care refers to the BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) program, the Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO program, and the several special managed care programs available.

The primary goals of the managed care programs are:

- To improve the quality of member care by providing continuity of care and improved access.
- To reduce the cost of health care through better care management.

Topic #402

Managed Care Contracts

The contract between the DHS (Department of Health Services) and the BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO takes precedence over other ForwardHealth provider publications. Information contained in ForwardHealth publications is used by the DHS to resolve disputes regarding covered benefits that cannot be handled internally by HMOs and SSI HMOs. If there is a conflict, the HMO or SSI HMO contract prevails. If the contract does not specifically address a situation, Wisconsin Administrative Code ultimately prevails. HMO and SSI HMO contracts can be found on the Managed Care Organization area of the ForwardHealth Portal.

Topic #404

SSI HMO Program

Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs (health maintenance organizations) provide the same benefits as Medicaid fee-for-service (e.g. medical, dental, mental health/substance abuse, vision, and prescription drug coverage) at no cost to their enrollees through a care management model. Medicaid members and SSI-related Medicaid members in certain counties may be eligible to enroll in an SSI HMO.

SSI-related Medicaid members receive coverage from Wisconsin Medicaid because of a disability determined by the Disability Determination Bureau.

Member Enrollment

Members who meet the following criteria are eligible to enroll in an SSI HMO:

- Medicaid-eligible individuals living in a service area that has implemented an SSI managed care program.
- Individuals ages 19 and older.
- Individuals who are enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid and SSI or receive SSI-related Medicaid.

Individuals who are living in an institution or nursing home or are participating in a home and community-based waiver program or FamilyCare are not eligible to enroll in an SSI HMO.

Ozaukee and Washington Counties

Most SSI and SSI-related Medicaid members who reside in Ozaukee and Washington counties are required to choose the HMO in which they wish to enroll. Dual eligibles (members receiving Medicare and Wisconsin Medicaid) are not required to enroll. After a 60-day trial period and up to 120 days after enrollment, enrollees may disenroll and return to Medicaid fee-for-service if they choose.

Southwestern Wisconsin Counties

SSI members and SSI-related Medicaid members who reside in Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties may choose to receive coverage from the HMO or remain in Wisconsin Medicaid fee-for-service.

Continuity of Care

Special provisions are included in the contract for SSI HMOs for continuity of care for SSI members and SSI-related Medicaid members. These provisions include the following:

- Coverage of services provided by the member's current provider for the first 60 days of enrollment in the SSI program or until the first of the month following completion of an assessment and care plan, whichever comes later. The contracted provider should get a referral from the member's HMO after this.
- Honoring a PA (prior authorization) that is currently approved by Wisconsin Medicaid. The PA must be honored for 60 days or until the month following the HMO's completion of the assessment and care plan, whichever comes later.
- Coverage of drugs that an SSI member is currently taking until a prescriber orders different drugs.

Topic #403

Special Managed Care Programs

Wisconsin Medicaid has several special managed care programs that provide services to individuals who are elderly and/or who have disabilities. These members may be eligible to enroll in voluntary regional managed care programs such as Family Care, the PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), and the Family Care Partnership Program. Additional information about these special managed care programs may be obtained from the Managed Care Organization area of the ForwardHealth Portal.

Prior Authorization

Topic #400

Prior Authorization Procedures

BadgerCare Plus HMOs (health maintenance organizations) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs may develop PA (prior authorization) guidelines that differ from fee-for-service guidelines. However, the application of such guidelines may not result in less coverage than fee-for-service. Contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO for more information regarding PA procedures.

Provider Information

Topic #406

Copayments

Providers cannot charge Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO (health maintenance organization) enrollees copayments for covered services except in cases where the Medicaid SSI HMO does not cover services such as dental, chiropractic, and pharmacy. When services are provided through fee-for-service or to members enrolled in a BadgerCare Plus HMO, copayments will apply.

Topic #407

Emergencies

Non-network providers may provide services to BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollees in an emergency without authorization or in urgent situations when authorized by the HMO or SSI HMO. The [contract](#) between the DHS (Department of Health Services) and the HMO or SSI HMO defines an emergency situation and includes general payment requirements.

Unless the HMO or SSI HMO has a written agreement with the non-network provider, the HMO or SSI HMO is only liable to the extent fee-for-service would be liable for an emergency situation, as defined in 42 CFR s. 438.114. Billing procedures for emergencies may vary depending on the HMO or SSI HMO. For specific billing instructions, non-network providers should always contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO.

Topic #408

Non-network Providers

Providers who do not have a contract with the enrollee's BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO are referred to as non-network providers. (HMO and SSI HMO network providers agree to payment amounts and billing procedures in a contract with the HMO or SSI HMO.) Non-network providers are required to direct enrollees to HMO or SSI HMO network providers except in the following situations:

- When a non-network provider is treating an HMO or SSI HMO enrollee for an emergency medical condition as defined in the contract between the DHS (Department of Health Services) and the HMO or SSI HMO.
- When the HMO or SSI HMO has authorized (in writing) an out-of-plan referral to a non-network provider.
- When the service is not provided under the HMO's or SSI HMO's contract with the DHS (such as dental, chiropractic, and pharmacy services).

Non-network providers may not serve BadgerCare Plus HMO or Medicaid SSI HMO enrollees as private-pay patients.

Topic #409

Out-of-Area Care

BadgerCare Plus HMOs (health maintenance organizations) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs may cover

medically necessary care provided to enrollees when they travel outside the HMO's or SSI HMO's service area. The HMO or SSI HMO is required to authorize the services before the services are provided, except in cases of [emergency](#). If the HMO or SSI HMO does not authorize the services, the enrollee may be held responsible for the cost of those services.

Topic #410

Provider Participation

Providers interested in participating in a BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO or changing HMO or SSI HMO network affiliations should contact the HMO or SSI HMO for more information. Conditions and terms of participation in an HMO or SSI HMO are pursuant to specific contract agreements between HMOs or SSI HMOs and providers. An HMO or SSI HMO has the right to choose whether or not to contract with any provider.

Topic #411

Referrals

Non-network providers may at times provide services to BadgerCare Plus HMO (health maintenance organization) and Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO enrollees on a referral basis. Non-network providers are always required to contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO. Before services are provided, the non-network provider and the HMO or SSI HMO should discuss and agree upon billing procedures and fees for all referrals. Non-network providers and HMOs or SSI HMOs should document the details of any referral in writing before services are provided.

Billing procedures for out-of-plan referrals may vary depending on the HMO or SSI HMO. For specific billing instructions, non-network providers should always contact the enrollee's HMO or SSI HMO.

Topic #412

Services Not Provided by HMOs or SSI HMOs

If an enrollee's BadgerCare Plus HMO's (health maintenance organization's) or Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMO's benefit package does not include a covered service, such as chiropractic or dental services, any Medicaid-certified provider may provide the service to the enrollee and submit claims to fee-for-service.

Member Information

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Archive Date:06/01/2011

Member Information:Enrollment Categories

Topic #4757

ForwardHealth and ForwardHealth interChange

ForwardHealth brings together many DHS (Department of Health Services) health care programs with the goal to create efficiencies for providers and to improve health outcomes for members. ForwardHealth interChange is the DHS claims processing system that supports multiple state health care programs and Web services, including:

- BadgerCare Plus.
- BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid managed care programs.
- SeniorCare.
- WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program).
- WIR (Wisconsin Immunization Registry).
- Wisconsin Medicaid.
- Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid.
- WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).

ForwardHealth interChange is supported by the state's fiscal agent, HP (Hewlett-Packard).

Topic #228

Medicaid

Medicaid is a joint federal/state program established in 1965 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act to pay for medical services for selected groups of people who meet the program's financial requirements.

The purpose of Medicaid is to provide reimbursement for and assure the availability of appropriate medical care to persons who meet the criteria for Medicaid. Wisconsin Medicaid is also known as the Medical Assistance Program, WMAP (Wisconsin Medical Assistance Program), MA (Medical Assistance), Title XIX, or T19.

A Medicaid member is any individual entitled to benefits under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and under the Medical Assistance State Plan as defined in ch. [49](#), Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Medicaid enrollment is determined on the basis of financial need and other factors. A citizen of the United States or a "qualified immigrant" who meets low-income financial requirements may be enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid if he or she is in one of the following categories:

- Age 65 and older.
- Blind.
- Disabled.

Some needy and low-income people become eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid by qualifying for programs such as:

- Katie Beckett.
- Medicaid Purchase Plan.
- [Subsidized adoption](#) and foster care programs.
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income).

- WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).

Providers may advise these individuals or their representatives to contact their [certifying agency](#) for more information. The following agencies certify people for Wisconsin Medicaid enrollment:

- Local county or tribal agencies.
- Medicaid outstation sites.
- SSA (Social Security Administration) offices.

In limited circumstances, some state agencies also certify individuals for Wisconsin Medicaid.

Medicaid fee-for-service members receive services through the traditional health care payment system under which providers receive a payment for each unit of service provided. Some Medicaid members receive services through state-contracted MCOs (managed care organizations).

Topic #10217

Members Enrolled in the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Women may be enrolled in the WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program) and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan at the same time. Women who are diagnosed with breast cancer or cervical cancer while enrolled in WWWP are eligible to be enrolled in WWWMA (Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid) through the WWWP. WWWMA covers the same services as Wisconsin Medicaid; therefore, enrollment in WWWMA enables members to receive comprehensive treatment, including services not related to their diagnosis.

Once a woman is enrolled in WWWMA, she is no longer eligible for the Basic Plan.

Enrollment Responsibilities

Topic #241

General Information

Members have certain responsibilities per [DHS 104.02](#), Wis. Admin. Code, and the [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits](#) booklet.

Topic #243

Loss of Enrollment — Financial Liability

Some covered services consist of a series of sequential treatment steps, meaning more than one office visit is required to complete treatment.

In most cases, if a member loses enrollment midway through treatment, BadgerCare Plus will *not* reimburse services (including prior authorized services) after enrollment has lapsed.

Members are financially responsible for any services received after their enrollment has been terminated. If the member wishes to continue treatment, it is a decision between the provider and the member whether the service should be given and how the services will be paid. The provider may collect payment from the member if the member accepts responsibility for payment of a service and certain [conditions](#) are met.

To avoid misunderstandings, it is recommended that providers remind members that they are financially responsible for any continued care after enrollment ends.

To avoid potential reimbursement problems that can arise when a member loses enrollment midway through treatment, the provider is encouraged to verify the member's enrollment using the [EVS \(Enrollment Verification System\)](#) or the ForwardHealth Portal prior to providing each service, even if an approved PA (prior authorization) request is obtained for the service.

Topic #707

Member Cooperation

Members are responsible for giving providers full and accurate information necessary for the correct submission of claims. If a member has other health insurance, it is the member's obligation to give full and accurate information to providers regarding the insurance.

Topic #269

Members Should Present Card

It is important that providers determine a member's enrollment and other insurance coverage *prior to* each DOS (date of service) that services are provided. Pursuant to [DHS 104.02\(2\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, a member should inform providers that he or she is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid and should present a current ForwardHealth identification card before receiving services.

Note: Due to the nature of their specialty, certain providers — such as anesthesiologists, radiologists, DME (durable medical equipment) suppliers, independent laboratories, and ambulances — are not always able to see a member's ForwardHealth identification card because they might not have direct contact with the member prior to providing the service. In these circumstances, it is still the provider's responsibility to obtain member enrollment information.

Topic #244

Prior Identification of Enrollment

Except in emergencies that preclude prior identification, members are required to inform providers that they are receiving benefits and must present their ForwardHealth identification card before receiving care. If a [member forgets his or her ForwardHealth card](#), providers may verify enrollment without it.

Topic #245

Reporting Changes to Caseworkers

Members are required to report certain changes to their caseworker at their certifying agency. These changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A new address or a move out of state.
- A change in income.
- A change in family size, including pregnancy.
- A change in other health insurance coverage.
- Employment status.
- A change in assets for members who are over 65 years of age, blind, or disabled.

Enrollment Rights

Topic #246

Appealing Enrollment Determinations

Applicants and members have the right to appeal certain decisions relating to BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid enrollment. An applicant, a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the applicant or member, or former member may file the appeal with the DHA (Division of Hearings and Appeals).

Pursuant to [HA 3.03](#), Wis. Admin. Code, an applicant, member, or former member may appeal any adverse action or decision by an agency or department that affects their benefits. Examples of decisions that may be appealed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Individual was denied the right to apply.
- Application for BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid was denied.
- Application for BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid was not acted upon promptly.
- Enrollment was unfairly discontinued, terminated, suspended, or reduced.

In the case when enrollment is cancelled or terminated, the date the member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, files an appeal with the DHA determines what continuing coverage, if any, the member will receive until the hearing decision is made. The following scenarios describe the coverage allowed for a member who files an appeal:

- If a member files an appeal before his or her enrollment ends, coverage will continue pending the hearing decision.
- If a member files an appeal within 45 days after his or her enrollment ends, a hearing is allowed but coverage is not reinstated.

If the member files an appeal more than 45 days after his or her enrollment ends, a hearing is not allowed. Members may file an appeal by submitting a [Request for Fair Hearing \(DHA-28 \(08/09\)\)](#) form.

Claims for Appeal Reversals

If a claim is denied due to termination of enrollment, a hearing decision that reverses that determination will allow the claim to be resubmitted and paid. The provider is required to obtain a copy of the appeal decision from the member, attach the copy to the previously denied claim, and submit both to ForwardHealth at the following address:

ForwardHealth
Specialized Research
Ste 50
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0050

If a provider has not yet submitted a claim, the provider is required to submit a copy of the hearing decision along with a paper claim to Specialized Research.

As a reminder, claims [submission deadlines](#) still apply even to those claims with hearing decisions.

Topic #247

Freedom of Choice

Members may receive covered services from *any* willing Medicaid-certified provider, unless they are enrolled in a state-contracted MCO (managed care organization) or assigned to the [Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program](#).

Topic #248

General Information

Members are entitled to certain rights per [DHS 103](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Topic #250

Notification of Discontinued Benefits

When the DHS (Department of Health Services) intends to discontinue, suspend, or reduce a member's benefits, or reduce or eliminate coverage of services for a general class of members, the DHS sends a written notice to members. This notice is required to be provided at least 10 days before the effective date of the action.

Topic #252

Prompt Decisions on Enrollment

Individuals applying for BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid have the right to prompt decisions on their applications. Enrollment decisions are made within 60 days of the date the application was signed for those with disabilities and within 30 days for all other applicants.

Topic #254

Requesting Retroactive Enrollment

An applicant has the right to request [retroactive enrollment](#) when applying for BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid. Enrollment may be backdated to the first of the month three months prior to the date of application for eligible members. Retroactive enrollment does not apply to QMB-Only (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary-Only) members.

Identification Cards

Topic #266

ForwardHealth Identification Cards

Each enrolled member receives an identification card. Possession of a program identification card does not guarantee enrollment. It is possible that a member will present a card during a lapse in enrollment; therefore, it is essential that providers verify enrollment before providing services. Members are told to keep their cards even though they may have lapses in enrollment.

ForwardHealth Identification Card Features

The [ForwardHealth identification card](#) includes the member's name, 10-digit member ID, magnetic stripe, signature panel, and the Member Services telephone number. The card also has a unique, 16-digit card number on the front for internal program use.

The ForwardHealth card does not need to be signed to be valid; however, adult members are encouraged to sign their cards. Providers may use the signature as another means of identification.

The toll-free number on the back of each of the cards is for member use only. The address on the back of each card is used to return a lost card to ForwardHealth if it is found.

If a provider finds discrepancies with the identification number or name between what is indicated on the ForwardHealth card and the provider's file, the provider should verify enrollment with Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System).

Identification Number Changes

Some providers may question whether services should be provided if a member's 10-digit identification number on his or her ForwardHealth card does not match the EVS response. If the EVS indicates the member is enrolled, services should be provided.

A member's identification number may change, and the EVS will reflect that change. However, ForwardHealth does not automatically send a replacement ForwardHealth card with the new identification number to the member. ForwardHealth cross-references the old and new identification numbers so a provider may submit claims with either number. The member may request a replacement ForwardHealth card that indicates the new number.

Member Name Changes

If a member's name on the ForwardHealth card is different than the response given from Wisconsin's EVS, providers should use the name from the EVS response. When a name change is reported and on file, a new card will automatically be sent to the member.

Deactivated Cards

When any member identification card has been replaced for any reason, the previous identification card is deactivated. If a member presents a deactivated card, providers should encourage the member to discard the deactivated card and use only the new card.

Although a member identification card may be deactivated, the member ID is valid and the member still may be enrolled in a ForwardHealth program.

If a provider swipes a ForwardHealth card using a magnetic stripe card reader and finds that it has been deactivated, the provider

may request a second form of identification if he or she does not know the member. After the member's identity has been verified, providers may verify a member's enrollment by using one of the EVS methods such as [AVR \(Automated Voice Response\)](#).

Defective Cards

If a provider uses a card reader for a ForwardHealth card and the magnetic stripe is defective, the provider should encourage the member to call Member Services at the number listed on the back of the member's card to request a new card.

If a member presents a ForwardHealth card with a defective magnetic stripe, providers may verify the member's enrollment by using an alternate enrollment verification method. Providers may also verify a member's enrollment by entering the member ID or 16-digit card number on a touch pad, if available, or by calling [WiCall](#) or [Provider Services](#).

Lost Cards

If a member needs a replacement ForwardHealth card, he or she may call Member Services to request a new one.

If a member lost his or her ForwardHealth card or never received one, the member may call [Member Services](#) to request a new one.

Managed Care Organization Enrollment Changes

Members do not receive a new ForwardHealth card if they are enrolled in a state-contracted MCO (managed care organization) or change from one MCO to another. Providers should verify enrollment with the EVS every time they see a member to ensure they have the most current managed care enrollment information.

Topic #1435

Types of Identification Cards

ForwardHealth members receive an identification card upon initial eligibility determination. Identification cards may be in any of the following formats:

- White plastic ForwardHealth cards.
- White plastic ForwardHealth Core Plan cards.
- White plastic ForwardHealth Basic Plan cards.
- Green paper temporary cards.
- Paper printout temporary card for EE (Express Enrollment) for children.
- Paper printout temporary card for EE for pregnant women.
- Beige paper temporary card for EE for pregnant women.
- White paper TE (Temporary Enrollment) for Family Planning Only Services cards.

Misuse and Abuse of Benefits

Topic #271

Examples of Member Abuse or Misuse

Examples of member abuse or misuse are included in [DHS 104.02\(5\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

Topic #272

Notifying ForwardHealth

Providers are required to notify ForwardHealth if they have reason to believe that a person is misusing or abusing BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid benefits or the ForwardHealth identification card. Section [49.49](#), Wis. Stats., defines actions that represent member misuse or abuse of benefits and the resulting sanctions that may be imposed. Providers are under no obligation to inform the member that they are doing so. A provider may not confiscate a ForwardHealth card from a member in question.

If a provider suspects that a member is abusing his or her benefits or misusing his or her ForwardHealth card, providers are required to notify ForwardHealth by calling [Provider Services](#) or by writing to the following office:

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
Bureau of Program Integrity
PO Box 309
Madison WI 53701-0309

ForwardHealth monitors member records and can impose sanctions on those who misuse or abuse their benefits. For more information on member misuse and abuse and the resulting sanctions, refer to s. 49.49, Wis. Stats.

Topic #274

Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program

Information is available for [DOS \(dates of service\) before April 1, 2011](#).

Overview of the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program

The purpose of the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program is to coordinate the provision of health care services for members who abuse or misuse Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, or SeniorCare benefits by seeking duplicate or medically unnecessary services, particularly for controlled substances. The Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program focuses on the abuse or misuse of prescription benefits for controlled substances. Abuse or misuse is defined under Recipient Duties in [DHS 104.02](#), Wis. Admin. Code.

The Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program applies to members in fee-for-service as well as members enrolled in Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs and BadgerCare Plus HMOs. Members remain enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program for two years and are continuously monitored for their prescription drug usage. At the end of the two-year enrollment period, an assessment is made to determine if the member should continue enrollment in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program.

Members enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program will be locked into one pharmacy where prescriptions for restricted

medications must be filled and one prescriber who will prescribe restricted medications. [Restricted medications](#) are most controlled substances, carisoprodol, and tramadol. Referrals will be required only for restricted medication services.

Fee-for-service members enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program may choose physicians and pharmacy providers from whom to receive prescriptions and medical services not related to restricted medications. Members enrolled in an HMO must comply with the HMO's policies regarding care that is not related to restricted medications.

Excluded Drugs

The following scheduled drugs will be excluded from monitoring by the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program:

- Anabolic steroids.
- Barbiturates used for seizure control.
- Lyrica[®].
- Provigil[®] and Nuvigil[®].
- Weight loss drugs.

Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program Administrator

The Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program is administered by HID (Health Information Designs, Inc.). HID may be contacted by telephone at (800) 225-6998, extension 3045, by fax at (800) 881-5573, or by mail at the following address:

Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program
c/o Health Information Designs
391 Industry Dr
Auburn AL 36832

Pharmacy Services Lock-In Prescribers Are Required to Be Certified by Wisconsin Medicaid

To prescribe restricted medications for Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program members, prescribers are required to be [certified by Wisconsin Medicaid](#). Certification for the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program is not separate from certification by Wisconsin Medicaid.

Role of the Lock-In Prescriber and Pharmacy Provider

The Lock-In prescriber determines what restricted medications are medically necessary for the member, prescribes those medications using his or her professional discretion, and designates an alternate prescriber if needed. If the member requires an alternate prescriber to prescribe restricted medications, the primary prescriber should complete the [Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program Designation of Alternate Prescriber for Restricted Medication Services \(F-11183 \(12/10\)\)](#) form and return it to the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program and to the member's HMO, if applicable.

To coordinate the provision of medications, the Lock-In prescriber may also contact the Lock-In pharmacy to give the pharmacist(s) guidelines as to which medications should be filled for the member and from whom. The primary Lock-In prescriber should also coordinate the provision of medications with any other prescribers he or she has designated for the member.

The Lock-In pharmacy fills prescriptions for restricted medications that have been written by the member's Lock-In prescriber(s) and works with the Lock-In prescriber(s) to ensure the member's drug regimen is consistent with the overall care plan. The Lock-In pharmacy may fill prescriptions for medications from prescribers other than the Lock-In prescriber only for medications not on the list of restricted medications. If a pharmacy claim for a restricted medication is submitted from a provider who is not a designated Lock-In prescriber, the claim will be denied.

Alternate Providers for Members Enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program

Members enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program do not have to visit their Lock-In prescriber to receive medical services unless an HMO requires a primary care visit. Members may see other providers to receive medical services; however, other providers cannot prescribe restricted medications for Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program members unless specifically designated to do so by the primary Lock-In prescriber. For example, if a member sees a cardiologist, the cardiologist may prescribe a statin for the member, but the cardiologist may not prescribe restricted medications unless he or she has been designated by the Lock-In prescriber as an alternate provider.

A referral to an alternate provider for a Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program member is necessary only when the member needs to obtain a prescription for a restricted medication from a provider other than his or her Lock-In prescriber or Lock-In pharmacy.

If the member requires alternate prescribers to prescribe restricted medications, the primary Lock-In prescriber is required to complete the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program Designation of Alternate Prescriber for Restricted Medication Services form. Referrals for fee-for-service members must be on file with the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program. Referrals for HMO members must be on file with the Pharmacy Service Lock-In Program and the member's HMO.

Designated alternate prescribers are required to be certified by Wisconsin Medicaid.

Claims from Providers Who Are Not Designated Pharmacy Services Lock-In Providers

If the member brings a prescription for a restricted medication from a non-Lock-In prescriber to the designated Lock-In pharmacy, the pharmacy provider cannot fill the prescription.

If a pharmacy claim for a restricted medication is submitted from a provider who is not the designated Lock-In prescriber, alternate prescriber, Lock-In pharmacy, or alternate pharmacy, the claim will be denied. If a claim is denied because the prescription is not from a designated Lock-In prescriber, the Lock-In pharmacy provider cannot dispense the drug or collect a cash payment from the member because the service is a nonreimbursable service. However, the Lock-In pharmacy provider may contact the Lock-In prescriber to request a new prescription for the drug, if appropriate.

To determine if a provider is on file with the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program, the Lock-In pharmacy provider may do one of the following:

- Speak to the member.
- Call HID.
- Call Provider Services.
- Use the ForwardHealth Portal.

Claims are not reimbursable if the designated Lock-In prescriber, alternate Lock-In prescriber, Lock-In pharmacy, or alternate Lock-In pharmacy provider is not on file with the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program.

Exceptions

Certain exceptions will be made regarding Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program requirements. The following are exempt from Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program requirements:

- Out-of-state providers who are not certified by Wisconsin Medicaid.
- Administration of drugs during an emergency room visit.

If a member enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program presents a prescription for a restricted medication from an emergency room visit or an out-of-state provider, the pharmacist at the Lock-In pharmacy must attempt to contact the Lock-In prescriber to verify the appropriateness of filling the prescription. If the pharmacy provider is unable to contact the Lock-In prescriber, the pharmacist should use his or her professional judgment to determine whether or not the prescription should be filled. If the prescription is filled, the claim must be submitted on paper using the [Pharmacy Special Handling Request \(F-13074 \(04/11\)\)](#) form.

The ForwardHealth emergency medication dispensing policy does not apply to the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program. Drugs dispensed in an emergency to Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program members are nonreimbursable services except as noted above. Providers cannot collect payment from Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program members for nonreimbursable services.

For More Information

Providers may call HID with questions about the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program. Pharmacy providers may also refer to the list of restricted medications data table or call Provider Services with questions about the following:

- Drugs that are restricted for Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program members.
- A member's enrollment in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In program.
- A member's designated Lock-In prescriber or Lock-In pharmacy.

Topic #273

Providers May Refuse to Provide Services

Providers may refuse to provide services to a BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid member in situations when there is reason to believe that the person presenting the ForwardHealth identification card is misusing or abusing it.

Members who abuse or misuse BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid benefits or their ForwardHealth card may have their benefits terminated or be subject to limitations under the [Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program](#) or to criminal prosecution.

Topic #275

Requesting Additional Proof of Identity

Providers may request additional proof of identity from a member if they suspect fraudulent use of a ForwardHealth identification card. If another form of identification is not available, providers can compare a person's signature with the signature on the back of the ForwardHealth identification card if it is signed. (Adult members are encouraged to sign the back of their cards; however, it is not mandatory for members to do so.)

Verifying member identity, as well as enrollment, can help providers detect instances of fraudulent ForwardHealth card use.

Special Enrollment Circumstances

Topic #279

Members Traveling Out of State

When a member travels out of state but is within the United States (including its territories), Canada, or Mexico, BadgerCare Plus covers medical services in any of the following circumstances:

- An emergency illness or accident.
- When the member's health would be endangered if treatment were postponed.
- When the member's health would be endangered if travel to Wisconsin were undertaken.
- When PA (prior authorization) has been granted to the out-of-state provider for provision of a nonemergency service.
- When there are coinsurance, copayment, or deductible amounts remaining after Medicare payment or approval for dual eligibles.

Note: Some providers located in a state that borders Wisconsin may be Wisconsin Medicaid certified as a [border-status provider](#) if the provider notifies ForwardHealth in writing that it is common practice for members in a particular area of Wisconsin to seek his or her medical services. Border-status providers follow the same policies as Wisconsin providers.

Topic #278

Persons Detained by Legal Process

Most individuals detained by legal process are *not* eligible for BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid benefits. Only those individuals who qualify for the [BadgerCare Plus Expansion for Certain Pregnant Women](#) may receive benefits.

"Detained by legal process" means a person who is incarcerated (including some Huber Law prisoners) because of law violation or alleged law violation, which includes misdemeanors, felonies, delinquent acts, and day-release prisoners. The justice system oversees health care-related needs for individuals detained by legal process who do not qualify for the BadgerCare Plus Expansion for Certain Pregnant Women.

Topic #281

Spenddown to Meet Financial Enrollment Requirements

Occasionally, an individual with significant medical bills meets all enrollment requirements except those pertaining to income. These individuals are required to "spenddown" their income to meet financial enrollment requirements.

The certifying agency calculates the individual's spenddown (or deductible) amount, tracks all medical costs the individual incurs, and determines when the medical costs have satisfied the spenddown amount. (A payment for a medical service does not have to be made by the individual to be counted toward satisfying the spenddown amount.)

When the individual meets the spenddown amount, the certifying agency notifies ForwardHealth and the provider of the last service that the individual is eligible beginning on the date that the spenddown amount was satisfied.

If the individual's last medical bill is greater than the amount needed to satisfy the spenddown amount, the certifying agency notifies the affected provider by indicating the following:

- The individual is eligible for benefits as of the DOS (date of service) on the last bill.
- A claim for the service(s) on the last bill should be submitted to ForwardHealth. (The claim should indicate the full cost of the service.)
- The portion of the last bill that the individual must pay to the provider.

The certifying agency also informs ForwardHealth of the individual's enrollment and identifies the following:

- The DOS of the final charges counted toward satisfying the spenddown amount.
- The provider number of the provider of the last service.
- The spenddown amount remaining to be satisfied.

When the provider submits the claim, the spenddown amount will automatically be deducted from the provider's reimbursement for the claim. The spenddown amount is indicated in the Member's Share element on the [Medicaid Remaining Deductible Update \(F-10109 \(07/08\)\)](#) form sent to providers by the member's certifying agency. The provider's reimbursement is then reduced by the amount of the member's obligation.

Prior Authorization

7

Archive Date:06/01/2011

Prior Authorization:General Information

Topic #3284

Prior Authorization Not Required

PA (prior authorization) is not required for CCOs (community care organizations).

Reimbursement

8

Archive Date:06/01/2011

Reimbursement:Amounts

Topic #258

Acceptance of Payment

The amounts allowed as payment for covered services must be accepted as payment in full. Therefore, total payment for the service (i.e., any amount paid by other health insurance sources, any BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid copayment or spenddown amounts paid by the member, and any amount paid by BadgerCare Plus) may not exceed the BadgerCare Plus-allowed amount. As a result, providers may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for the difference between their usual and customary charge and the BadgerCare Plus-allowed amount for a service (i.e., balance billing).

Other health insurance payments may exceed the BadgerCare Plus-allowed amount if no additional payment is received from the member or BadgerCare Plus.

Topic #694

Billing Service and Clearinghouse Contracts

According to [DHS 106.03\(5\)\(c\)2](#), Wis. Admin. Code, contracts with outside billing services or clearinghouses may not be based on commission in which compensation for the service is dependent on reimbursement from BadgerCare Plus. This means compensation must be unrelated, directly or indirectly, to the amount of reimbursement or the number of claims and is not dependent upon the actual collection of payment.

Topic #8117

Electronic Funds Transfer

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) allows ForwardHealth to directly deposit payments into a provider's designated bank account for a more efficient delivery of payments than the current process of mailing paper checks. Electronic Funds Transfer is secure, eliminates paper, and reduces the uncertainty of possible delays in mail delivery.

Only in-state and border-status providers who submit claims and MCOs (managed care organizations) are eligible to receive EFT payments.

Provider Exceptions

EFT payments are not available to the following providers:

- In-state emergency providers.
- Out-of-state providers.
- Out-of-country providers.
- SMV (specialized medical vehicle) providers during their provisional certification period.

Enrolling in Electronic Funds Transfer

A ForwardHealth Portal account is required to enroll into EFT as all enrollments must be completed via a secure Provider Portal

account or a secure MCO Portal account. Paper enrollments are not accepted. A separate EFT enrollment is required for each financial payer a provider bills.

Providers who do not have a Portal account may [Request Portal Access](#) online. Providers may also call the [Portal Helpdesk](#) for assistance in requesting a Portal account.

The following guidelines apply to EFT enrollment:

- Only a Portal Administrator or a clerk that has been assigned the new "EFT" role on the Portal may complete the EFT enrollment information.
- Organizations cannot revert back to receiving paper checks once enrolled in EFT.
- Organizations may change their EFT information at any time.
- Organizations will continue to receive their Remittance Advice as they do currently.

Refer to the ForwardHealth Portal Electronic Funds Transfer User Guide and the Electronic Funds Transfer Fact Page for instructions and more information about EFT enrollment.

Providers will continue to receive payment via paper check until the enrollment process moves into "Active" status and the provider's ForwardHealth EFT enrollment is considered complete.

Recoupment and Reversals

Enrollment in EFT does not change the current process of recouping funds. Overpayments and recoupment of funds will continue to be conducted through the reduction of payments.

Note: Enrolling in EFT does not authorize ForwardHealth to make unauthorized debits to the provider's EFT account; however, in some instances an EFT reversal of payment may be necessary. For example, if the system generates a payment twice or the amount entered manually consists of an incorrect value (e.g., a decimal point is omitted creating a \$50,000 keyed value for a \$500 claim), a reversal will take place to correct the error and resend the correct transaction value. ForwardHealth will notify the designated EFT contact person of an EFT reversal if a payment is made in error due to a system processing or manual data entry error.

Problem Resolution

If payment is not deposited into the designated EFT account according to the ForwardHealth payment cycle, providers should first check with their financial institution to confirm the payment was received. If the payment was not received, providers should then call [Provider Services](#) to resolve the issue and payment by paper check will be reinstated until the matter has been resolved.

Collecting Payment From Members

Topic #227

Conditions That Must Be Met

A member may request a noncovered service, a covered service for which PA (prior authorization) was denied (or modified), or a service that is not covered under the member's limited benefit category. The charge for the service may be collected from the member if the following conditions are met *prior* to the delivery of that service:

- The member accepts responsibility for payment.
- The provider and member make payment arrangements for the service.

Providers are strongly encouraged to obtain a *written* statement in advance documenting that the member has accepted responsibility for the payment of the service.

Furthermore, the service must be separate or distinct from a related, covered service. For example, a vision provider may provide a member with eyeglasses but then, upon the member's request, provide and charge the member for anti-glare coating, which is a noncovered service. Charging the member is permissible in this situation because the anti-glare coating is a separate service and can be added to the lenses at a later time.

Topic #538

Cost Sharing

According to federal regulations, providers cannot hold a member responsible for any commercial or Medicare cost-sharing amount such as coinsurance, copayment, or deductible. Therefore, a provider may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for copayments required by other health insurance sources. Instead, the provider should collect *only* the copayment amount from the member.

Topic #224

Situations When Member Payment Is Allowed

Providers may not collect payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, *except* for the following:

- Required member [copayments](#) for certain services.
- Commercial insurance payments made to the member.
- [Spendedown](#).
- Charges for a [private room](#) in a nursing home or hospital.
- Noncovered services if certain conditions are met.
- Covered services for which PA (prior authorization) was denied (or an originally requested service for which a PA request was modified) if certain conditions are met. These services are treated as noncovered services.
- Services provided to a member in a limited benefit category when the services are not covered under the limited benefit and if certain conditions are met.

If a provider inappropriately collects payment from a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, that provider may be subject to program sanctions including termination of Medicaid certification.

Copayment

Topic #231

Exemptions

Wisconsin Medicaid Exemptions

According to [DHS 104.01\(12\)](#), Wis. Admin. Code, providers are prohibited from collecting copayment from the following Wisconsin Medicaid members:

- Members under 18 years of age with incomes at or below 100 percent of the FPL (Federal Poverty Level). (For HealthCheck services, members under 19 years old are exempt.)
- Members under 18 years of age who are members of a federally recognized tribe regardless of income.
- Members enrolled in Medicaid because they are in foster care regardless of age.
- Members enrolled in Medicaid through subsidized adoption regardless of age.
- Members enrolled in Medicaid through the Katie Beckett program regardless of age.
- Nursing home residents.
- Members enrolled in Medicaid SSI (Supplemental Security Income) HMOs or Medicaid special managed care programs receiving managed care-covered services.
- Pregnant women.

The following services do not require copayment:

- Case management services.
- Crisis intervention services.
- CSP (Community Support Program) services.
- Emergency services.
- Family planning services, including sterilizations.
- Home care services.
- Hospice care services.
- Immunizations.
- Independent laboratory services.
- Injections.
- PDN (private duty nursing) and PDN services for ventilator-dependent members.
- SBS (school-based services).
- Substance abuse day treatment services.
- Surgical assistance.

BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan Exemptions

Providers are prohibited from collecting copayment from the following BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan members:

- Members in nursing homes.
- Members under 18 years old who are members of a federally recognized tribe regardless of income.
- Members under 18 years old with incomes at or below 100 percent of the FPL.
- Pregnant women.

The following services do not require copayment:

- Case management services.
- Crisis intervention services.
- CSP services.
- Emergency services.
- Family planning services, including sterilizations.
- Home care services.
- Hospice care services.
- Immunizations.
- Independent laboratory services.
- Injections.
- PDN and PDN services for ventilator-dependent members.
- SBS.
- Substance abuse day treatment services.
- Surgical assistance.

Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid Exemptions

Providers are prohibited from collecting copayment from members who have been enrolled into WWWMA (Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid) from the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan or the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for any Medicaid covered service.

Topic #233

Limitations

Providers should verify that they are collecting the correct copayment for services as some services have monthly or annual copayment limits. Providers may not collect member copayments in amounts that exceed copayment limits.

Resetting Copayment Limitations

Copayment amounts paid by a member enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan within their continuous 12-month enrollment year will reset in the following situations:

- A fee-for-service member is enrolled in an HMO.
- A member switches from one HMO to another HMO (only allowable within the first 90 days of Core Plan enrollment).
- A member is disenrolled from an HMO and moves to fee-for-service.

Note: When a member goes from fee-for-service into an HMO and subsequently moves back to fee-for-service, copayments will not be reset for the services that were received under the initial fee-for-service enrollment period.

Resetting copayment limitations does not change a member's [Benchmark Plan](#) enrollment year or a member's [Core Plan](#) enrollment year.

Topic #237

Refund/Collection

If a provider collects a copayment before providing a service and BadgerCare Plus does not reimburse the provider for any part of the service, the provider is required to return or credit the entire copayment amount to the member.

If BadgerCare Plus deducts less copayment than the member paid, the provider is required to return or credit the remainder to the

member. If BadgerCare Plus deducts more copayment than the member paid, the provider may collect the remaining amount from the member.

Topic #239

Requirements

Federal law permits states to charge members a copayment for certain covered services. Providers are required to request copayments from members. Providers may not deny services to a Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan member who fails to make a copayment; however, providers may deny services to a BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan member, BadgerCare Plus Core Plan member, or BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan member who fails to make a copayment.

Chapter [49.45\(18\)](#), Wis. Stats., requires providers to make a reasonable attempt to collect copayment from the member unless the provider determines that the cost of collecting the copayment exceeds the amount to be collected.

Payer of Last Resort

Topic #242

Instances When Medicaid Is Not Payer of Last Resort

Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus are *not* the payer of last resort for members who receive coverage from certain governmental programs, such as:

- B-3 (Birth to 3).
- Crime Victim Compensation Fund.
- GA (General Assistance).
- HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) waiver programs.
- IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).
- Indian Health Service.
- Maternal and Child Health Services.
- WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program).
 - Adult Cystic Fibrosis.
 - Chronic Renal Disease.
 - Hemophilia Home Care.

Providers should ask members if they have coverage from these other governmental programs.

If the member becomes retroactively enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus, providers who have already been reimbursed by one of these government programs may be required to submit the claims to ForwardHealth and refund the payment from the government program.

Topic #251

Other Health Insurance Sources

BadgerCare Plus reimburses only that portion of the allowed cost remaining after a member's other health insurance sources have been exhausted. Other health insurance sources include the following:

- [Commercial fee-for-service plans.](#)
- [Commercial managed care plans.](#)
- Medicare supplements (e.g., Medigap).
- Medicare.
- Medicare Advantage.
- TriCare.
- CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Plan of the Veterans Administration).
- Other governmental benefits.

Topic #253

Payer of Last Resort

Except for a few instances, Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus are the payer of last resort for any covered services. Therefore,

the provider is required to make a reasonable effort to exhaust all existing other health insurance sources before submitting claims to ForwardHealth or to a state-contracted MCO (managed care organization).

Topic #255

Primary and Secondary Payers

The terms "primary payer" and "secondary payer" indicate the relative order in which insurance sources are responsible for paying claims.

In general, commercial health insurance is primary to Medicare, and Medicare is primary to Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus. Therefore, Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus are secondary to Medicare, and Medicare is secondary to commercial health insurance.

Reimbursement Not Available

Topic #695

Reimbursement Not Available Through a Factor

BadgerCare Plus will not reimburse providers through a factor, either directly or by virtue of a power of attorney given to the factor by the provider. A factor is an organization (e.g., a collection agency) or person who advances money to a provider for the purchase or transfer of the provider's accounts receivable. The term "factor" does not include business representatives, such as billing services, clearinghouses, or accounting firms, which render statements and receive payments in the name of the provider.

Topic #51

Services Not Separately Reimbursable

If reimbursement for a service is included in the reimbursement for the primary procedure or service, it is not separately reimbursable. For example, routine venipuncture is not separately reimbursable, but it is included in the reimbursement for the laboratory procedure or the laboratory test preparation and handling fee. Also, DME (durable medical equipment) delivery charges are included in the reimbursement for DME items.

Resources

9

Archive Date:06/01/2011

Resources:Contact Information

Topic #476

Member Services

Providers should refer ForwardHealth members with questions to [Member Services](#). The telephone number for Member Services is for member use only.

Topic #473

Provider Relations Representatives

The Provider Relations representatives, also known as field representatives, conduct training sessions on various ForwardHealth topics for both large and small groups of providers and billers. In addition to provider education, field representatives are available to assist providers with complex billing and claims processing questions. Field representatives are located throughout the state to offer detailed assistance to all ForwardHealth providers and all ForwardHealth programs.

Field Representative Specialization

The field representatives are assigned to [specific regions](#) of the state. In addition, the field representatives have [specialized](#) in a group of provider types. This specialization allows the field representatives to most efficiently and effectively address provider inquiries. To better direct inquiries, providers should contact the field representative in [their region who specializes in their provider type](#).

Provider Education

The field representatives' primary focus is provider education. They provide information on ForwardHealth programs and topics in the following ways:

- Conducting provider training sessions throughout the state.
- Providing training and information for newly certified providers and/or new staff.
- Participating in professional association meetings.

Providers may also contact the field representatives if there is a specific topic, or topics, on which they would like to have an individualized training session. This could include topics such as use of the Portal (information about claims, enrollment verification, and PA (prior authorization) requests on the Portal). Refer to the [Providers Trainings page](#) for the latest information on training opportunities.

Additional Inquiries

Providers are encouraged to initially obtain information through the ForwardHealth Portal, WiCall, and Provider Services. If these attempts are not successful, field representatives may be contacted for the following types of inquiries:

- Claims, including discrepancies regarding enrollment verification and claim processing.
- PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) claims submission software.
- Claims processing problems that have not been resolved through other channels (e.g., telephone or written correspondence).
- Referrals by a Provider Services telephone correspondent.
- Complex issues that require extensive explanation.

Field representatives primarily work outside their offices to provide on-site service; therefore, providers should be prepared to leave a complete message when contacting field representatives, including all pertinent information related to the inquiry. Member inquiries should not be directed to field representatives. Providers should refer members to Member Services at (800) 362-3002.

If contacting a field representative by e-mail, providers should ensure that no individually identifiable health information, known as PHI (protected health information), is included in the message. PHI can include things such as the member's name combined with his/her identification number or SSN (Social Security number).

Information to Have Ready

Providers or their representatives should have the following information ready when they call:

- Name or alternate contact.
- County and city where services are provided.
- Name of facility or provider whom they are representing.
- NPI (National Provider Identifier) or provider number.
- Telephone number, including area code.
- A concise statement outlining concern.
- Days and times when available.

For questions about a specific claim, providers should also include the following information:

- Member's name.
- Member identification number.
- Claim number.
- DOS (date of service).

Topic #474

Provider Services

Providers should call [Provider Services](#) to answer enrollment, policy, and billing questions. Members should call [Member Services](#) for information. Members should *not* be referred to Provider Services.

The Provider Services Call Center provides service-specific assistance to Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), and WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program) providers.

Ways Provider Services Can Help

The Provider Services Call Center is organized to include program-specific and service-specific assistance to providers. The Provider Services call center supplements the ForwardHealth Portal and WiCall by providing information on the following:

- Billing and claim submissions.
- Certification.
- COB (coordination of benefits) (e.g., verifying a member's other health insurance coverage).
- Assistance with completing forms.
- Assistance with remittance information and claim denials.
- Policy clarification.
- PA (prior authorization) status.
- Verifying covered services.

Information to Have Ready

When contacting or transferring from WiCall to the call center, callers will be prompted to enter their NPI (National Provider Identifier) or provider ID. Additionally, to facilitate service, providers are recommended to have all pertinent information related to their inquiry on hand when contacting the call center, including:

- Provider name and NPI or provider ID.
- Member name and member identification number.
- Claim number.
- PA number.
- DOS (dates of service).
- Amount billed.
- RA (Remittance Advice).
- Procedure code of the service in question.
- Reference to any provider publications that address the inquiry.

Call Center Correspondent Team

The ForwardHealth call center correspondents are organized to respond to telephone calls from providers. Correspondents offer assistance and answer inquiries specific to the program (i.e., Medicaid, WCDP, or WWWP) or to the service area (i.e., pharmacy services, hospital services) in which they are designated.

Call Center Menu Options and Inquiries

Providers contacting Provider Services are prompted to select from the following menu options:

- WCDP and WWWP (for inquiries from all providers regarding WCDP or WWWP).
- Dental (for all inquiries regarding dental services).
- Medicaid or SeniorCare Pharmacy (for pharmacy providers) or STAT-PA (Specialized Transmission Approval Technology-Prior Authorization) for STAT-PA inquiries, including inquiries from pharmacies, DME (durable medical equipment) providers for orthopedic shoes, and HealthCheck providers for environmental lead inspections.
- Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus institutional services (for inquiries from providers who provide hospital, nursing home, home health, personal care, ESRD (end-stage renal disease), and hospice services or NIP (nurses in independent practice)).
- Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus professional services (for inquiries from all other providers not mentioned in the previous menu prompts).

Walk-in Appointments

Walk-in appointments offer face-to-face assistance for providers at the Provider Services office. Providers are encouraged to contact the Provider Services Call Center to schedule a walk-in appointment.

Written Inquiries

Providers may contact Provider Services through the Portal by selecting the "Contact Us" link. Provider Services will respond to the inquiry by the preferred method of response indicated within five business days. All information is transmitted via a secure connection to protect personal health information.

Providers may submit written inquiries to ForwardHealth by mail using the [Written Correspondence Inquiry \(F-1170 \(07/09\)\)](#) form. The Written Correspondence Inquiry form may be photocopied or downloaded via a link from the Portal. Written correspondence should be sent to the following address:

ForwardHealth

Provider Services Written Correspondence
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0005

Providers are encouraged to use the other resources before mailing a written request to ForwardHealth. Provider Services will respond to written inquiries in writing unless otherwise specified.

Topic #475

Provider Suggestions

The DHCAA (Division of Health Care Access and Accountability) is interested in improving its program for providers and members. Providers who would like to suggest a revision of any policy or procedure stated in provider publications or who wish to suggest new policies are encouraged to submit recommendations on the [Provider Suggestion \(F-1016 \(02/09\)\)](#) form.

Topic #4456

Resources Reference Guide

The [Provider Services and Resources Reference Guide](#) lists services and resources available to providers and members with contact information and hours of availability.

Electronic Data Interchange

Topic #459

Companion Documents

Purpose of Companion Documents

ForwardHealth [companion documents](#) provide trading partners with useful technical information on ForwardHealth's standards for nationally recognized electronic transactions.

The information in companion documents applies to BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), and WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program). Companion documents are intended for information technology and systems staff who code billing systems or software.

The companion documents complement the federal HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) Implementation Guides and highlight information that trading partners need to successfully exchange electronic transactions with ForwardHealth, including general topics such as the following:

- Methods of exchanging electronic information (e.g., exchange interfaces, transaction administration, and data preparation).
- Instructions for constructing the technical component of submitting or receiving electronic transactions (e.g., claims, RA (Remittance Advice), and enrollment inquiries).

Companion documents do *not* include program requirements, but help those who create the electronic formats for electronic data exchange.

Companion documents cover the following specific subjects:

- Getting started (e.g., identification information, testing, and exchange preparation).
- Transaction administration (e.g., tracking claims submissions, contacting the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#)).
- Transaction formats.

Revisions to Companion Documents

Companion documents may be updated as a result of changes to federal requirements. When this occurs, ForwardHealth will do the following:

- Post the revised companion document on the ForwardHealth Portal.
- Post a message on the banner page of the RA.
- Send an e-mail to trading partners.

Trading partners are encouraged to periodically check for the revised companion documents on the Portal. If trading partners do not follow the revisions identified in the companion document, transactions may not process successfully (e.g., claims may deny or process incorrectly).

A revision log located at the front of the revised companion document lists the changes that have been made. The date on the companion document reflects the last date the companion document was revised. In addition, the version number located in the footer of the first page is changed with each revision.

Topic #460

Data Exchange Methods

The following data exchange methods are supported by the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#):

- Remote access server dial-up, using a personal computer with a modem, browser, and encryption software.
- Secure Web, using an Internet Service Provider and a personal computer with a modem, browser, and encryption software.
- Real-time, by which trading partners exchange the NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) 5.1, 270/271 (270/271 Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Information Response), or 276/277 (276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response) transactions via an approved clearinghouse.

The EDI Helpdesk supports the exchange of the transactions for BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), and WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).

Topic #461

Electronic Data Interchange Helpdesk

The [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#) assists anyone interested in becoming a trading partner with getting started and provides ongoing support pertaining to electronic transactions. Providers, billing services, and clearinghouses are encouraged to contact the EDI Helpdesk for test packets and/or technical questions.

Providers with policy questions should call [Provider Services](#).

Topic #462

Electronic Transactions

Trading partners may submit claims and adjustment requests, inquire about member enrollment, claim status, and ForwardHealth payment advice by exchanging electronic transactions.

Through the EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) Department, trading partners may exchange the following electronic transactions:

- 270/271 (270/271 Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Information Response). The 270 is the electronic transaction for inquiring about a member's enrollment. The 271 is received in response to the inquiry.
- 276/277 (276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response). The 276 is the electronic transaction for checking claim status. The 277 is received in response.
- 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice). The electronic transaction for receiving remittance information.
- 837 (837 Health Care Claim). The electronic transaction for submitting claims and adjustment requests.
- 997 (997 Functional Acknowledgment). The electronic transaction for reporting whether a transaction is accepted or rejected.
- TA1 Interchange Acknowledgment. The electronic transaction for reporting a transaction that is rejected for interchange level errors.
- NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) 5.1 Telecommunication Standard for Retail Pharmacy Claims. The real-time POS (Point-of-Sale) electronic transaction for submitting pharmacy claims.

Topic #463

Provider Electronic Solutions Software

ForwardHealth offers electronic billing software at no cost to providers. The PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software allows providers to submit 837 (837 Health Care Claim) transactions and download the 997 (997 Functional Acknowledgment) and the 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice) transactions. To obtain PES software, providers may download it from the [ForwardHealth Portal](#). For assistance installing and using PES software, providers may call the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#).

Topic #464

Trading Partner Profile

A [Trading Partner Profile](#) must be completed and signed for each billing provider number that will be used to exchange electronic transactions.

In addition, billing providers who do not use a third party to exchange electronic transactions, billing services, and clearinghouses are required to complete a Trading Partner Profile.

To determine whether a Trading Partner Profile is required, providers should refer to the following:

- Billing providers who do not use a third party to exchange electronic transactions, including providers who use the PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) software, are required to complete the Trading Partner Profile.
- Billing providers who use a third party (billing services and clearinghouses) to exchange electronic transactions are required to submit a Trading Partner Profile.
- Billing services and clearinghouses, including those that use PES software, that are authorized by providers to exchange electronic transactions on a provider's behalf, are required to submit a Trading Partner Profile.

Providers who change billing services and clearinghouses or become a trading partner should keep their information updated by contacting the [EDI \(Electronic Data Interchange\) Helpdesk](#).

Topic #465

Trading Partners

ForwardHealth exchanges nationally recognized electronic transactions with trading partners. A "trading partner" is defined as a covered entity that exchanges electronic health care transactions. The following covered entities are considered trading partners:

- Providers who exchange electronic transactions directly with ForwardHealth.
- Billing services and clearinghouses that exchange electronic transactions directly with ForwardHealth on behalf of a billing provider.

Enrollment Verification

Topic #256

270/271 Transactions

The [270/271 \(270/271 Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Information Response\)](#) transactions allow for batch enrollment verification, including information for the current benefit month or for any date of eligibility the member has on file, through a secure Internet connection. The 270 is the electronic transaction for inquiring about a member's enrollment. The 271 is received in response to the inquiry.

For those providers who are federally required to have an NPI (National Provider Identifier), an NPI is required on the 270/271 transactions. The NPI indicated on the 270 is verified to ensure it is associated with a valid certification on file with ForwardHealth. The 271 response will report the NPI that was indicated on the 270.

For those providers exempt from NPI, a provider ID is required on the 270/271 transactions. The provider ID indicated on the 270 is verified to ensure it is associated with a valid certification on file with ForwardHealth. The 271 response will report the provider ID that was indicated on the 270.

Topic #469

An Overview

Providers should always verify a member's enrollment before providing services, both to determine enrollment for the current date (since a member's enrollment status may change) and to discover any limitations to the member's coverage. Each enrollment verification method allows providers to verify the following prior to services being rendered:

- A member's enrollment in a ForwardHealth program(s).
- State-contracted MCO (managed care organization) enrollment.
- Medicare enrollment.
- Limited benefits categories.
- Any other commercial health insurance coverage.
- Exemption from copayments for BadgerCare Plus members.

Topic #259

Commercial Enrollment Verification Vendors

ForwardHealth has agreements with several [commercial enrollment verification vendors](#) to offer enrollment verification technology to ForwardHealth providers. Commercial enrollment verification vendors have up-to-date access to the ForwardHealth enrollment files to ensure that providers have access to the most current enrollment information. Providers may access Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) to verify member enrollment through one or more of the following methods available from commercial enrollment verification vendors:

- Magnetic stripe card readers.
- Personal computer software.
- Internet.

Vendors sell magnetic stripe card readers, personal computer software, Internet access, and other services. They also provide ongoing maintenance, operations, and upgrades of their systems. Providers are responsible for the costs of using these enrollment verification methods.

Note: Providers are *not* required to purchase services from a commercial enrollment verification vendor. For more information on other ways to verify member enrollment or for questions about ForwardHealth identification cards, contact [Provider Services](#).

The real-time enrollment verification methods allow providers to print a paper copy of the member's enrollment information, including a transaction number, for their records. Providers should retain this number or the printout as proof that an inquiry was made.

Magnetic Stripe Card Readers

The magnetic stripe card readers resemble credit card readers. Some ForwardHealth identification cards have a magnetic stripe and signature panel on the back, and a unique, 16-digit card number on the front. The 16-digit card number is valid only for use with a magnetic card reader.

Providers receive current member enrollment information after passing the ForwardHealth card through the reader or entering the member identification number or card number into a keypad and entering the DOS (date of service) about which they are inquiring.

Personal Computer Software

Personal computer software can be integrated into a provider's current computer system by using a modem and can access the same information as the magnetic stripe card readers.

Internet Access

Some enrollment verification vendors provide real-time access to enrollment from the EVS through the Internet.

Topic #4903

Copayment Information

If a member is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and is exempted from paying copayments for services, providers will receive the following response to an enrollment query from all methods of enrollment verification:

- The name of the benefit plan.
- The member's enrollment dates.
- The message, "No Copay."

If a member is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and is required to pay copayments, providers will be given the name of the benefit plan in which the member is enrolled and the member's enrollment dates for the benefit plan only.

Note: The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan may also charge different copayments for hospital services depending on the member's income level. Members identified as "BadgerCare Plus Core Plan 1" are subject to lower copayments for hospital services. Members identified as "BadgerCare Plus Core Plan 2" are subject to higher copayments for hospital services.

Topic #264

Enrollment Verification System

Member enrollment issues are the primary reason claims are denied. To reduce claim denials, providers should *always* verify a member's enrollment before providing services, both to determine enrollment for the current date (since a member's enrollment status may change) and to discover any limitations to the member's coverage. Providers may want to verify the member's enrollment a second time before submitting a claim to find out whether the member's enrollment information has changed since the appointment.

Providers can access Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) to receive the most current enrollment information through the following methods:

- ForwardHealth Portal.
- [WiCall](#), Wisconsin's AVR (Automated Voice Response) system.
- Commercial enrollment verification vendors.
- 270/271 (270/271 Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Response) transactions.
- [Provider Services](#).

Providers cannot charge a member, or authorized person acting on behalf of the member, for verifying his or her enrollment.

The EVS does not indicate other government programs that are secondary to Wisconsin Medicaid.

Topic #4901

Enrollment Verification on the Portal

The secure ForwardHealth Portal offers real-time member enrollment verification for all ForwardHealth programs. Providers will be able to use this tool to determine:

- The benefit plan(s) in which the member is enrolled.
- If the member is enrolled in a state-contracted managed care program (for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members).
- If the member has any other coverage, such as Medicare or commercial health insurance.
- If the member is exempted from copayments (BadgerCare Plus members only).

To access enrollment verification via the ForwardHealth Portal, providers will need to do the following:

- Go to the ForwardHealth Portal.
- Establish a provider account.
- Log into the secure Portal.
- Click on the menu item for enrollment verification.

Providers will receive a unique transaction number for each enrollment verification inquiry. Providers may access a history of their enrollment inquiries using the Portal, which will list the date the inquiry was made and the enrollment information that was given on the date that the inquiry was made. For a more permanent record of inquiries, providers are advised to use the "print screen" function to save a paper copy of enrollment verification inquiries for their records or document the transaction number at the beginning of the response, for tracking or research purposes. This feature allows providers to access enrollment verification history when researching claim denials due to enrollment issues.

The Provider Portal is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Topic #4900

Entering Dates of Service

Enrollment information is provided based on a "From" DOS (date of service) and a "To" DOS that the provider enters when making the enrollment inquiry. For enrollment inquiries, a "From" DOS is the earliest date for which the provider is requesting enrollment

information and the "To" DOS is the latest date for which the provider is requesting enrollment information.

Providers should use the following guidelines for entering DOS when verifying enrollment for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, or WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program) members:

- The "From" DOS is the earliest date the provider requires enrollment information.
- The "To" DOS must be within 365 days of the "From" DOS.
- If the date of the request is prior to the 20th of the current month, then providers may enter a "From" DOS and "To" DOS up to the end of the current calendar month.
- If the date of the request is on or after the 20th of the current month, then providers may enter a "From" DOS and "To" DOS up to the end of the following calendar month.

For example, if the date of the request was November 15, 2008, the provider could request dates up to and including November 30, 2008. If the date of the request was November 25, 2008, the provider could request dates up to and including December 31, 2008.

Topic #265

Member Forgets ForwardHealth Identification Card

Even if a member does not present a ForwardHealth identification card, a provider can use Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System) to verify enrollment; otherwise, the provider may choose not to provide the service(s) until a member brings in a ForwardHealth card.

A provider may use a combination of the member's name, date of birth, ForwardHealth identification number, or SSN (Social Security number) with a "0" at the end to access enrollment information through the EVS.

A provider may call [Provider Services](#) with the member's full name and date of birth to obtain the member's enrollment information if the member's identification number or SSN is not known.

Topic #4899

Member Identification Card Does Not Guarantee Enrollment

Most members receive a member identification card, but possession of a program identification card does not guarantee enrollment. Periodically, members may become ineligible for enrollment, only to re-enroll at a later date. Members are told to keep their cards even though they may have gaps in enrollment periods. It is possible that a member will present a card when he or she is not enrolled; therefore, it is essential that providers verify enrollment before providing services. To reduce claim denials, it is important that providers verify the following information prior to each DOS (date of service) that services are provided:

- If a member is enrolled in any ForwardHealth program, including benefit plan limitations.
- If a member is enrolled in a managed care organization.
- If a member is in primary provider lock-in status.
- If a member has Medicare or other insurance coverage.

Topic #4898

Responses Are Based on Financial Payer

When making an enrollment inquiry through Wisconsin's EVS (Enrollment Verification System), the returned response will provide information on the member's enrollment in benefit plans based on financial payers.

There are three financial payers under ForwardHealth:

- Medicaid (Medicaid is the financial payer for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and SeniorCare).
- WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program).
- WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).

Within each financial payer are benefit plans. Each member is enrolled under at least one of the three financial payers, and under each financial payer, is enrolled in at least one benefit plan. An individual member may be enrolled under more than one financial payer. (For instance, a member with chronic renal disease may have health care coverage under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and the WCDP chronic renal disease program. The member is enrolled under two financial payers, Medicaid and WCDP.) Alternatively, a member may have multiple benefits under a single financial payer. (For example, a member may be covered by the TB-Only (Tuberculosis-Related Services Only) Benefit and Family Planning Only Services at the same time, both of which are administered by Medicaid.)

Forms

Topic #767

An Overview

ForwardHealth requires providers to use a variety of forms for PA (prior authorization), claims processing, and documenting special circumstances.

Topic #470

Fillable Forms

Most forms may be obtained from the [Forms](#) page of the ForwardHealth Portal.

Forms on the Portal are available as fillable PDF (Portable Document Format) files, which can be viewed with Adobe Reader[®] computer software. Providers may also complete and print fillable PDF files using Adobe Reader[®].

To complete a fillable PDF, follow these steps:

- Select a specific form.
- Save the form to the computer.
- Use the "Tab" key to move from field to field.

Note: The Portal provides instructions on how to obtain Adobe Reader[®] at no charge from the Adobe[®] Web site. Adobe Reader[®] only allows providers to view and print completed PDFs. It does not allow users to save completed fillable PDFs to their computer; however, if Adobe Acrobat[®] is purchased, providers may save completed PDFs to their computer. Refer to the [Adobe[®] Web site](#) for more information about fillable PDFs.

Selected forms are also available in fillable Microsoft[®] Word format on the Portal. The fillable Microsoft[®] Word format allows providers to complete and print the form using Microsoft[®] Word. To complete a fillable Microsoft[®] Word form, follow these steps:

- Select a specific form.
- Save the form to the computer.
- Use the "Tab" key to move from field to field.

Note: Providers may save fillable Microsoft[®] Word documents to their computer by choosing "Save As" from the "File" menu, creating a file name, and selecting "Save" on their desktop.

Topic #766

Telephone or Mail Requests

Providers who do not have Internet access or who need forms that are not available on the ForwardHealth Portal may obtain them by doing either of the following:

- Requesting a paper copy of the form by calling [Provider Services](#). Questions about forms may also be directed to Provider

Services.

- Submitting a written request and mailing it to ForwardHealth. Include a return address, the name of the form, and the form number and send the request to the following address:

ForwardHealth
Form Reorder
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0003

Portal

Topic #11057

ASC X12 Version 5010 and NCPDP Version D.0 Implementation Page

ForwardHealth has established a page on the ForwardHealth Portal designed to keep providers and trading partners informed of important dates and information related to the implementation of the new HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) ASC X12 version 5010 and NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs) telecommunication standard version D.0. Providers, trading partners, partners, MCOs (Managed Care Organizations), and other interested parties are encouraged to check the 5010 page of the Portal often, as ForwardHealth will post new information regularly.

As information becomes available, ForwardHealth plans to include the following on the version 5010 and version D.0 page of the Portal:

- Questions and answers about the transition to the new standards.
- Companion documents for the new standards.
- External compliance testing schedule and procedures.
- Links to national resources for version 5010 and version D.0 transactions.
- An e-mail address to which providers and trading partners can send their questions (*forwardhealth5010support@wi.gov*).

Topic #4904

Claims and Adjustments Using the ForwardHealth Portal

Providers can [track the status](#) of their submitted claims, [submit individual claims](#), correct errors on claims, copy claims, and determine what claims are in "pay" status on the ForwardHealth Portal. Providers have the ability to [search for and view](#) the status of all their finalized claims, regardless of how they were submitted (i.e., paper, electronic, clearinghouse). If a claim contains an error, providers can correct it on the Portal and resubmit it to ForwardHealth.

Providers can submit an individual claim or adjust a claim through DDE (Direct Data Entry) through the secure Portal.

Topic #8524

Conducting Recertification Via the ForwardHealth Portal

Providers can conduct [recertification](#) online via a secure recertification area of the ForwardHealth Portal.

Topic #5157

Cost Share Reports for Long-Term Managed Care Organizations

Individual cost share reports for long-term care MCOs (managed care organizations) that provide Family Care, Family Care

Partnership, and PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) services are available via the secure area of the ForwardHealth Portal and can be downloaded as an Excel file.

Topic #4345

Creating a Provider Account

Each provider needs to designate one individual as an administrator of the ForwardHealth Portal account. This user establishes the administrative account once his or her PIN (Personal Identification Number) is received. The administrative user is responsible for this provider account and is able to add accounts for other users (clerks) within his or her organization and assign security roles to clerks that have been established. To establish an administrative account after receiving a PIN, the administrative user is required to follow these steps:

1. Go to the ForwardHealth Portal.
2. Click the **Providers** button.
3. Click **Logging in for the first time?**.
4. Enter the Login ID and PIN. The Login ID is the provider's NPI or provider number.
5. Click **Setup Account**.
6. At the Account Setup screen, enter the user's information in the required fields.
7. Read the security agreement and click the checkbox to indicate agreement with its contents.
8. Click **Submit** when complete.

Once in the secure Provider area of the Portal, the provider may conduct business online with ForwardHealth via a secure connection. Providers may also perform the following administrative functions from the Provider area of the Portal:

- Establish accounts and define access levels for clerks.
- Add other organizations to the account.
- Switch organizations.

A user's guide containing detailed instructions for performing these functions can be found on the Portal.

Topic #4340

Designating a Trading Partner to Receive 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice Transactions

Providers must designate a trading partner to receive their 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice) transaction for ForwardHealth interChange.

Providers who wish to submit their 835 designation via the Portal are required to create and establish a provider account to have access to the secure area of the Portal.

To designate a trading partner to receive 835 transactions, providers must first complete the following steps:

- Access the Portal and log into their secure account by clicking the Provider link/button.
- Click on the Designate 835 Receiver link on the right-hand side of the secure home page.
- Enter the identification number of the trading partner that is to receive the 835 in the Trading Partner ID field.
- Click Save.

Providers who are unable to use the Portal to designate a trading partner to receive 835 transactions may call the [EDI Helpdesk](#) or submit a [paper \(Trading Partner 835 Designation, F-13393 \(08/08\)\)](#) form.

Topic #5087

Electronic Communications

The secure Portal contains a one-way message center where providers can receive electronic notifications and provider publications from ForwardHealth. All new messages display on the provider's main page within the secure Portal.

Topic #5088

Enrollment Verification

The secure Portal offers real time member [enrollment verification](#) for all ForwardHealth programs. Providers are able to use this tool to determine:

- The health care program(s) in which the member is enrolled.
- Whether or not the member is enrolled in a state-contracted MCO (managed care organization).
- Whether or not the member has any third-party liability, such as Medicare or commercial health insurance.
- Whether or not the member is enrolled in the Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program and the member's Lock-In pharmacy, primary care provider, and referral providers (if applicable).

Using the Portal to check enrollment may be more effective than calling [WiCall](#) or the EVS (enrollment verification system) (although both are available).

Providers are assigned a unique enrollment verification number for each inquiry. Providers can also use the "print screen" function to print a paper copy of enrollment verification inquiries for their records.

Topic #4338

ForwardHealth Portal

Providers, members, trading partners, managed care programs, and partners have access to public *and* secure information through the ForwardHealth Portal.

The Portal has the following areas:

- Providers (public and secure).
- Trading Partners.
- Members.
- MCO (managed care organization).
- Partners.

The secure Portal allows providers to conduct business and exchange electronic transactions with ForwardHealth. The public Portal contains general information accessible to all users. Members can access general health care program information and apply for benefits [online](#).

Topic #4441

ForwardHealth Portal Helpdesk

Providers and trading partners may call the [ForwardHealth Portal Helpdesk](#) with technical questions on Portal functions, including their Portal accounts, registrations, passwords, and submissions through the Portal.

Topic #4451

Inquiries to ForwardHealth Via the Portal

Providers are able to contact Provider Services through the ForwardHealth Portal by clicking the [Contact](#) link and entering the relevant inquiry information, including selecting the preferred method of response (i.e., telephone call or e-mail). Provider Services will respond to the inquiry by the preferred method of response indicated within five business days.

Topic #4400

Internet Connection Speed

ForwardHealth recommends providers have an Internet connection that will provide an upload speed of at least 768 Kbps and a download speed of at least 128 Kbps in order to efficiently conduct business with ForwardHealth via the Portal.

For [PES \(Provider Electronic Solutions\)](#) users, ForwardHealth recommends an Internet connection that will provide a download speed of at least 128 Kbps for downloading PES software and software updates from the Portal.

These download speeds are generally not available through a dial-up connection.

Topic #4351

Logging in to the Provider Area of the Portal

Once an administrative user's or other user's account is set up, he or she may log in to the Provider area of the Portal to conduct business. To log in, the user is required to click the "Provider" link or button, then enter his or her username and password and click "Go" in the Login to Secure Site box at the right side of the screen.

Topic #4743

Managed Care Organization Portal

Information and Functions Through the Portal

The [MCO \(managed care organization\) area](#) of the ForwardHealth Portal allows state-contracted MCOs to conduct business with ForwardHealth. The Public MCO page offers easy access to key MCO information and Web tools. A log-in is required to access the secure area of the Portal to submit or retrieve account and member information which may be sensitive.

The following information is available through the Portal:

- Certified Provider Listing of all Medicaid-certified providers.
- Coordination of Benefits Extract/Insurance Carrier Master List information updated quarterly.
- Data Warehouse, which is linked from the Portal to Business Objects. The Business Objects function allows for access to MCO data for long term care MCOs.
- Electronic messages.
- Enrollment verification by entering a member ID or SSN (Social Security number) with date of birth and a "from DOS (date of

service)" and a "to DOS" range. A transaction number is assigned to track the request.

- Member search function for retrieving member information such as medical status code, and managed care and Medicare information.
- Provider search function for retrieving provider information such as address, telephone number, provider ID, and taxonomy code (if applicable), and provider type and specialty.
- HealthCheck information.
- MCO contact information.
- Technical contact information. Entries may be added via the Portal.

Topic #5158

Managed Care Organization Portal Reports

The following reports are generated to MCOs (managed care organizations) through their account on the ForwardHealth MCO Portal:

- Capitation Payment Listing Report.
- Cost Share Report (long-term MCOs only).
- Enrollment Reports.

MCOs are required to establish a Portal account in order to receive reports from ForwardHealth.

Capitation Payment Listing Report

The Capitation Payment Listing Report provides "payee" MCOs with a detailed listing of the members for whom they receive capitation payments. ForwardHealth interChange creates adjustment transaction information weekly and regular capitation transaction information monthly. The weekly batch report includes regular and adjustment capitation transactions. MCOs have the option of receiving both the Capitation Payment Listing Report and the 820 Payroll Deducted and Other Group Premium Payment for Insurance Products transactions.

Initial Enrollment Roster Report

The Initial Enrollment Roster Report is generated according to the annual schedules detailing the number of new and continuing members enrolled in the MCO and those disenrolled before the next enrollment month.

Final Enrollment Roster Report

The Final Enrollment Roster Report is generated the last business day of each month and includes members who have had a change in status since the initial report and new members who were enrolled after the Initial Enrollment Roster Report was generated.

Other Reports

Additional reports are available for BadgerCare Plus HMOs, SSI HMOs, and long-term MCOs. Some are available via the Portal and some in the secure FTP (file transfer protocol).

Topic #4744

Members ForwardHealth Portal

Members can access ForwardHealth information by going to the ForwardHealth Portal. Members can search through a directory of

providers by entering a ZIP code, city, or county. Members can also access all member-related ForwardHealth applications and forms. Members can use [ACCESS](#) to check availability, apply for benefits, check current benefits, and report any changes.

Topic #4344

Obtaining a Personal Identification Number

To establish an account on the ForwardHealth Portal, providers are required to obtain a PIN (Personal Identification Number). The PIN is a unique, nine-digit number assigned by ForwardHealth interChange for the sole purpose of allowing a provider to establish a Portal account. It is used in conjunction with the provider's login ID. Once the Portal account is established, the provider will be prompted to create a username and password for the account, which will subsequently be used to log in to the Portal.

Note: The PIN used to create the provider's Portal account is not the same PIN used for recertification on the Portal. Providers will receive a separate PIN for recertification.

A provider may need to request more than one PIN if he or she is a provider for more than one program or has more than one type of provider certification. A separate PIN will be needed for each provider certification. Health care providers will need to supply their NPI (National Provider Identifier) and corresponding taxonomy code when requesting an account. Non-healthcare providers will need to supply their unique provider number.

Providers may request a PIN by following these steps:

1. Go to the [Portal](#).
2. Click on the "Providers" link or button.
3. Click the "Request Portal Access" link from the Quick Links box on the right side of the screen.
4. At the Request Portal Access screen, enter the following information:
 - a. Health care providers are required to enter their NPI and click "Search" to display a listing of ForwardHealth certifications. Select the correct certification for the account. The taxonomy code, ZIP+4 code, and financial payer for that certification will be automatically populated. Enter the SSN (Social Security number) or TIN (Tax Identification Number).
 - b. Non-healthcare providers are required to enter their provider number, financial payer, and SSN or TIN. (This option should only be used by non-healthcare providers who are exempt from NPI requirements).

The financial payer is one of the following:

- Medicaid (Medicaid is the financial payer for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and Senior Care).
 - SSI (Supplemental Security Income).
 - WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program).
 - The WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program).
- c. Click **Submit**.
 - d. Once the Portal Access Request is successfully completed, ForwardHealth will send a letter with the provider's PIN to the address on file.

Topic #4459

Online Handbook

The Online Handbook allows providers access to all policy and billing information for Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program) in one centralized place. A secure ForwardHealth Portal account is not required to use the Online Handbook as it is available to all Portal visitors.

Revisions to policy information are incorporated immediately after policy changes have been issued in *ForwardHealth Updates*. The

Online Handbook also links to the [ForwardHealth Publications page](#), an archive section that providers can use to research past policy and procedure information.

The Online Handbook, which is available through the public area of the Portal, is designed to sort information based on user-entered criteria, such as program and provider type. It is organized into sections and chapters. Sections within each handbook may include the following:

- Certification.
- Claims.
- Coordination of Benefits.
- Managed Care.
- Member Information.
- Prior Authorization.
- Reimbursement.
- Resources.

Each section consists of separate chapters (e.g, claims submission, procedure codes), which contain further detailed information.

Advanced Search Function

The Online Handbook has an advanced search function, which allows providers to search for a specific word or phrase within a user type, program, service area, or throughout the entire Online Handbook.

Providers can access the advanced search function by following these steps:

1. Go to the Portal.
2. Click the "Online Handbooks" link in the upper left "Providers" box.
3. Complete the two drop-down selections at the right to narrow the search by program and service area, if applicable. This is not needed if providers wish to search the entire Online Handbook.
4. Click "Advanced Search" to open the advanced search options.
5. Enter the word or phrase you would like to search.
6. Select "Search within the options selected above" or "Search all handbooks, programs and service areas."
7. Click the "Search" button.

ForwardHealth Publications Archive Area

The ForwardHealth Publications page of the Online Handbook allows providers to view old *Updates* and previous versions of the Online Handbook.

Providers can access the archive information area by following these steps:

1. Go to the Portal.
2. Click the "Online Handbooks" link in the upper left "Providers" box.
3. Click on the "Updates and Handbooks" link. (This link is below the three drop-down menus.)

Topic #5089

Other Business Enhancements Available on the Portal

The secure Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal enables providers to do the following:

- Verify member enrollment.

- View RAs (Remittance Advice).
- Designate which trading partner is eligible to receive the provider's 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice).
- Update and maintain provider file information. Providers have the choice to indicate separate addresses for different business functions.
- Receive electronic notifications and provider publications from ForwardHealth.
- Enroll in EFT (electronic funds transfer).
- Track provider-submitted PA (prior authorization) requests.

Topic #4911

Portal Account Administrators

Portal administrators are responsible for requesting, creating, and managing accounts to access these features for their organization.

There must be one administrator assigned for each Portal account and all users established for that account. The responsibilities of the Portal administrator include:

- Ensuring the security and integrity of all user accounts (clerk administrators and clerks) created and associated with their Portal account.
- Ensuring clerks or clerk administrators are given the appropriate authorizations they need to perform their functions for the provider, trading partner, or MCO (managed care organization).
- Ensuring that clerks or clerk administrator accounts are removed/deleted promptly when the user leaves the organization.
- Ensuring that the transactions submitted are valid and recognized by ForwardHealth.
- Ensuring that all users they establish know and follow security and guidelines as required by HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of 1996). As Portal administrators establish their Portal account and create accounts for others to access private information, administrators are reminded that all users must comply with HIPAA. The HIPAA privacy and security rules require that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of PHI (protected health information) are maintained at all times. The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides guidelines governing the disclosure of PHI. The HIPAA Security Rule delineates the security measures to be implemented for the protection of electronic PHI. If Portal administrators have any questions concerning the protection of PHI, visit the Portal for additional information.

Portal administrators have access to all secure functions for their Portal account.

Establish an Administrator Account

All Portal accounts require an administrator account. The administrator is a selected individual who has overall responsibility for management of the account. Therefore, he or she has complete access to all functions within the specific secure area of his or her Portal and are permitted to add, remove, and manage other individual roles.

Topic #4912

Portal Clerk Administrators

A Portal administrator may choose to delegate some of the authority and responsibility for setting up and managing the users within their Portal account. If so, the Portal administrator may establish a clerk administrator. An administrator or clerk administrator can create, modify, manage or remove clerks for a Portal account. When a clerk is created, the administrator or clerk administrator must grant permissions to the clerks to ensure they have the appropriate access to the functions they will perform. A clerk administrator can only grant permissions that they themselves have. For example, if an administrator gives a clerk administrator permission only for enrollment verification, then the clerk administrator can only establish clerks with enrollment verification permissions.

Even if a Portal administrator chooses to create a clerk administrator and delegate the ability to add, modify, and remove users from the same account, the Portal administrator is still responsible for ensuring the integrity and security of the Portal account.

Topic #4913

Portal Clerks

The administrator (or the clerk administrator if the administrator has granted them authorization) may set up clerks within their Portal account. Clerks may be assigned one or many roles (i.e., claims, PA, enrollment verification). Clerks do not have the ability to establish, modify, or remove other accounts.

Once a clerk account is set up, the clerk account does not have to be established again for a separate Portal account. Clerks can easily be assigned a role for different Portal accounts (i.e., different ForwardHealth certifications). To perform work under a different Portal account for which they have been granted authorization, a clerk can use the "switch org" function and toggle between the Portal accounts to which they have access. Clerks may be granted different authorization in each Portal account (i.e., they may do enrollment verification for one Portal account, and HealthCheck inquires for another).

Topic #4740

Public Area of the Provider Portal

The public Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal offers a variety of important business features and functions that will greatly assist in daily business activities with ForwardHealth programs.

Maximum Allowable Fee Schedules

Within the Portal, all [fee schedules](#) for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program) are interactive and searchable. Providers can enter the DOS (date of service), along with other information such as procedure code, category of supplies, or provider type, to find the maximum allowable fee. Providers can also download all fee schedules.

Online Handbook

The Online Handbook is the single source for all current policy and billing information for ForwardHealth. The Online Handbook is designed to sort information based on user-entered criteria, such as program and provider type.

Revisions to policy information are incorporated into the Online Handbook in conjunction with published *Updates*. The Online Handbook also links to the [ForwardHealth Publications page](#), an archive section where providers can research previously published *Updates*.

ForwardHealth Publications Archive Section

The [ForwardHealth Publications page](#), available via the Quick Links box, lists *Updates*, *Update Summaries*, archives of provider Handbooks and provider guides, and monthly archives of the Online Handbook. The ForwardHealth Publications page contains both current and obsolete information for research purposes only. Providers should use the Online Handbook for current policy and procedure questions. The *Updates* are searchable by provider type or program (e.g., physician or HealthCheck "Other Services") and by year of publication.

Training

Providers can register for all scheduled trainings and view online trainings via the [Portal Training page](#), which contains an up-to-date calendar of all available training. Additionally, providers can view [Webcasts](#) of select trainings.

Contacting Provider Services

Providers and other Portal users will have an additional option for contacting Provider Services through the Contact link on the Portal. Providers can enter the relevant inquiry information, including selecting the preferred method of response (i.e., telephone call or e-mail) the provider wishes to receive back from Provider Services. Provider Services will respond to the inquiry within five business days. Information will be submitted via a secure connection.

Online Certification

Providers can speed up the certification process for Medicaid by completing a [provider certification application](#) via the Portal. Providers can then track their application by entering their ATN (application tracking number) given to them on completion of the application.

Other Business Enhancements Available on the Portal

The public Provider area of the Portal also includes the following features:

- A ["What's New?"](#) section for providers that links to the latest provider publication summaries and other new information posted to the Provider area of the Portal.
- Home page for the provider. Providers have administrative control over their Portal homepage and can grant other employees access to specified areas of the Portal, such as claims and PA (prior authorization).
- [E-mail subscription](#) service for *Updates*. Providers can register for e-mail subscription to receive notifications of new provider publications via e-mail. Users are able to select, by program and service area, which publication notifications they would like to receive.
- A [forms library](#).

Topic #4741

Secure Area of the Provider Portal

Providers can accomplish many processes via the ForwardHealth Portal, including submitting, adjusting, and correcting claims, submitting and amending PA (prior authorization) requests, and verifying enrollment.

Claims and Adjustments Using the Portal

Providers can track the status of their submitted claims, submit individual claims, correct errors on claims, and determine what claims are in "pay" status on the Portal. Providers have the ability to search for and view the status of all of their finalized claims, regardless of how they were submitted (i.e., paper, electronic, clearinghouse). If a claim contains an error, providers can correct it on the Portal and resubmit it to ForwardHealth.

Providers can submit an individual claim or adjust a claim via DDE (Direct Data Entry) through the secure Portal.

Submitting Prior Authorization and Amendment Requests Via the Portal

Nearly all service areas can submit PAs via the Portal. Providers can do the following:

- Correct errors on PAs or amendment requests via the Portal, regardless of how the PA was originally submitted.
- View all recently submitted and finalized PA and amendment requests.

- View the latest provider review and decision letters.
- Receive messages about PA and amendment requests that have been adjudicated or returned for provider review.

Electronic Communications

The secure Portal contains a one-way message center where providers can receive electronic notifications and provider publications from ForwardHealth. All new messages display on the provider's main page within the secure Portal.

Enrollment Verification

The secure Portal offers real-time member [enrollment verification](#) for all ForwardHealth programs. Providers are able to use this tool to determine:

- The health care program(s) in which the member is enrolled.
- Whether or not the member is enrolled in a state-contracted MCO.
- Whether or not the member has any third-party liability, such as Medicare or commercial health insurance.

Using the Portal to check enrollment may be more efficient than calling the AVR (Automated Voice Response) system or the EVS (Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System) (although both are available).

Providers will be assigned a unique enrollment verification number for each inquiry. Providers can also use the "print screen" function to print a paper copy of enrollment verification inquiries for their records.

Other Business Enhancements Available on the Portal

The secure Provider area of the Portal enables providers to do the following:

- Verify member enrollment.
- View RA (Remittance Advice)s.
- Designate which trading partner is eligible to receive the provider's 835 (835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice).
- Update and maintain provider file information. Providers will have the choice to indicate separate addresses for different business functions.
- Receive electronic notifications and provider publications from ForwardHealth.
- Enroll in EFT (electronic funds transfer).
- Track provider-submitted PA requests.

Topic #4401

System and Browser Requirements

The following table lists the recommended system and browser requirements for using the Portal. PES (Provider Electronic Solutions) users should note that the Windows-based requirements noted in the table apply; PES cannot be run on Apple-based systems.

Recommended System Requirements	Recommended Browser Requirements
Windows-Based Systems	
Computer with at least a 500Mhz processor, 256 MB of RAM, and 100MB of free disk space	Microsoft Internet Explorer v. 6.0 or higher, or Firefox v. 1.5 or higher
Windows XP or higher operating system	
Apple-Based Systems	

Computer running a PowerPC G4 or Intel processor, 512 MB of RAM, and 150MB of free disk space	Safari, or Firefox v. 1.5 or higher
Mac OS X 10.2.x or higher operating system	

Topic #4742

Trading Partner Portal

The following information is available on the public [Trading Partner](#) area of the ForwardHealth Portal:

- Trading partner [testing packets](#).
- [Trading Partner Profile](#) submission.
- [PES \(Provider Electronic Solutions\)](#) software and upgrade information.
- EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) [companion documents](#).

In the secure Trading Partner area of the Portal, trading partners can exchange electronic transactions with ForwardHealth.

Updates

Topic #4460

Full Text Publications Available

Providers may request full-text versions of *ForwardHealth Updates* to be mailed to them by calling [Provider Services](#).

Topic #478

General Information

ForwardHealth Updates are the first source of provider information. *Updates* announce the latest information on policy and coverage changes, PA (prior authorization) submission requirements, claims submission requirements, and training announcements.

The *ForwardHealth Update Summary* is posted to the ForwardHealth Portal on a monthly basis and contains an overview of *Updates* published that month. Providers with a ForwardHealth Portal account are notified through their Portal message box when the *Update Summary* is available on the Portal.

Updates included in the *Update Summary* are posted in their entirety on the Provider area of the Portal. Providers may access *Updates* from direct links in the electronic *Update Summary* as well as navigate to other Medicaid information available on the Portal.

Providers without Internet access may call [Provider Services](#) to request a paper copy of an *Update*. To expedite the call, correspondents will ask providers for the *Update* number. Providers should allow seven to 10 business days for delivery.

Revisions to policy information are incorporated into the Online Handbook in conjunction with published *Updates*. The Online Handbook also includes a link to the [ForwardHealth Publications page](#), an archive section where providers can research previously published *Updates*.

Topic #4458

Multiple Ways to Access ForwardHealth Publications

Users may register for e-mail subscription service. Providers who have established a ForwardHealth Portal account will automatically receive notification of *ForwardHealth Updates* and the monthly *ForwardHealth Update Summary* in their Portal message box. Providers will receive notification via their Portal accounts or e-mail subscription.

E-mail Subscription Service

Providers and other interested parties may register for e-mail subscription on the Portal to receive e-mail notifications of new provider publications. Users are able to select, by program (Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, or WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program)) and provider type (e.g., physician, hospital, DME (durable medical equipment) vendor), and which publication notifications they would like to receive. Any number of staff or other interested parties from an organization may sign up for an e-mail subscription.

Users may sign up for an e-mail subscription by following these steps:

1. Click the Providers link on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.
2. In the Quick Links section on the right side of the screen, click Register for E-mail Subscription.
3. The Subscriptions page will be displayed. In the E-Mail field in the New Subscriber section, enter the e-mail address to which messages should be sent.
4. Enter the e-mail address again in the Confirm E-Mail field.
5. Click Register. A message will be displayed at the top of the Subscriptions page indicating the registration was successful. If there are any problems with the registration, an error message will be displayed instead.
6. Once registration is complete, click the program for which you want to receive messages in the Available Subscriptions section of the Subscriptions page. The selected program will expand and a list of service areas will be displayed.
7. Select the service area(s) for which you want to receive messages. Click Select All if you want to receive messages for all service areas.
8. When service area selection is complete, click Save at the bottom of the page.
9. The selected subscriptions will load and a confirmation message will appear at the top of the page.

WiCall

Topic #257

Enrollment Inquiries

WiCall is an [AVR \(Automated Voice Response\)](#) system that allows providers with touch-tone telephones direct access to enrollment information. A [WiCall Quick Reference Guide for Enrollment Inquiries](#) is available.

Information from WiCall will be returned in the following order if applicable to the member's current enrollment:

- Transaction number: A number will be given as a transaction confirmation that providers should keep for their records.
- Benefit enrollment: All benefit plans the member is enrolled in on the DOS (date of service) or within the [DOS range selected for the financial payer](#).
- County Code: The member's county code will be provided if available. The county code is a two-digit code between 01 and 72 that represents the county in which member resides. If the enrollment response reflects that the member resides in a designated HPSA (Health Personnel Shortage Area) on the DOS or within the DOS range selected, HPSA information will be given.
- MCO (managed care organization): All information about state-contracted MCO enrollment, including MCO names and telephone numbers (that exists on the DOS or within the DOS range selected), will be listed. This information is applicable to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members only.
- Hospice: If the member is enrolled in the hospice benefit on the DOS or within the DOS range that the provider selected, the hospice information will be given. This information is applicable to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members only.
- Lock-in: Information about the [Pharmacy Services Lock-In Program](#) that exists on the DOS or within the DOS range selected will be provided. This information is applicable to Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and SeniorCare members only.
- Medicare: All information about Medicare coverage, including type of coverage and Medicare number, if available, that exists on the DOS or within the DOS range selected will be listed.
- Other Commercial Insurance Coverage: All information about commercial coverage, including carrier names and telephone numbers, if available, that exists on the DOS or within the DOS range selected will be listed.
- Transaction Completed: After the member's enrollment information has been given using the financial payer that was selected, providers will be given the following options:
 - To hear the information again.
 - To request enrollment information for the same member using a different financial payer.
 - To hear another member's enrollment information using the same financial payer.
 - To hear another member's enrollment information using a different financial payer.
 - To return to the main menu.

WiCall is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If for some reason the system is unavailable, providers may call [Provider Services](#).

Transaction Number

The AVR system issues a transaction number every time a provider verifies enrollment, even when an individual is *not* enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid. The provider should retain this transaction number. It is proof that an inquiry was made about the member's enrollment. If a provider thinks a claim was denied in error, the provider can reference the transaction number to ForwardHealth to confirm the enrollment response that was actually given.

Topic #466

Information Available Via WiCall

WiCall, ForwardHealth's AVR (Automated Voice Response) system, gathers inquiry information from callers through voice prompts and accesses ForwardHealth interChange to retrieve and "speak" back the following ForwardHealth information:

- Claim status.
- Enrollment verification.
- PA (prior authorization) status.
- Provider CheckWrite information.

Note: ForwardHealth releases CheckWrite information to WiCall no sooner than on the first state business day following the financial cycle.

Providers are prompted to enter NPI (National Provider Identifier) or provider ID and in some cases, NPI-related data, to retrieve query information.

In all inquiry scenarios, WiCall offers the following options after information is retrieved and reported back to the caller:

- Repeat the information.
- Make another inquiry of the same type.
- Return to the main menu.
- Repeat the options.

Claim Status

Providers may check the status of a specific claim by selecting the applicable program ("financial payer" option, i.e., Wisconsin Medicaid, WCDP (Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program), or WWWP (Wisconsin Well Woman Program) by entering their provider ID, member identification number, DOS (date of service), and the amount billed.

Note: Claim information for BadgerCare Plus and SeniorCare is available by selecting the Medicaid option.

Enrollment Verification

Providers may request enrollment status for any date of eligibility the member has on file by entering their provider ID and the member ID. If the member ID is unknown, providers may enter the member's date of birth and SSN (Social Security number). Additionally, the provider is prompted to enter the "From DOS" and the "To DOS" for the inquiry. The "From" DOS is the earliest date the provider requires enrollment information and the "To" DOS must be within 365 days of the "From" DOS.

Each time a provider verifies member enrollment, the enrollment verification is saved and assigned a transaction number as transaction confirmation. Providers should note the transaction number for their records.

Prior Authorization Status

Except in certain instances, providers may obtain the status of PA requests for Medicaid and WCDP via WiCall by entering their provider ID and the applicable PA number. If the provider does not know the PA number, there is an option to bypass entering the PA number and the caller will be prompted to enter other PA information such as member ID and type of service (i.e., NDC (National Drug Code)/procedure code, revenue code, or ICD-9-CM (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification) diagnosis code.) When a match is found, WiCall reports back the PA status information, including the PA number for future reference, and the applicable program.

Information on past PAs is retained indefinitely. Paper PAs require a maximum of 20 working days from receipt to be processed and incorporated into WiCall's PA status information.

Note: PA information for BadgerCare Plus and SeniorCare is available by selecting the Medicaid option.

Topic #765

Quick Reference Guide

The WiCall [AVR \(Automated Voice Response\) Quick Reference Guide](#) displays the information available for WiCall inquiries.