

# Wisconsin Medicaid update and BadgerCare

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## Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Information for Providers

To:  
County Birth to 3  
Program  
Agencies  
Occupational  
Therapists  
Physical  
Therapists  
Rehabilitation  
Agencies  
Speech and  
Hearing Clinics  
Speech-Language  
Pathologists  
Therapy Groups  
HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Therapy providers eligible for natural environment enhanced reimbursement when providing services to children in the Birth to 3 Program

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after January 1, 2002, providers of occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech-language pathology (SLP) services are eligible for a natural environment enhanced reimbursement when providing therapy services to children in the Birth to 3 Program (B-3) in the child's natural environment.

### **Natural environment enhancement available**

Wisconsin Act 16, the 2001-2003 biennial budget, enables providers of occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech-language pathology (SLP) services to receive an enhanced reimbursement in addition to Wisconsin Medicaid's standard reimbursement when therapy services are provided to children in the Birth to 3 Program (B-3) in the child's natural environment. This enhanced reimbursement is available only for Medicaid-certified providers performing services for Medicaid-eligible recipients. The enhanced reimbursement is \$21.50 per child, per date of service (DOS), per type of therapy. This policy is effective for DOS on and after January 1, 2002.

### **Natural environment defined**

"Natural environment" is defined in both 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 303 and HFS 90.03(25), Wis. Admin. Code, as "settings that are natural or normal for a child's age peers who have no disability." Natural environments may include family child care, inclusive child care centers, or other settings where most of the children do not have disabilities. Natural environments do not include medical facilities such as therapy clinics, physician clinics, rehabilitation agencies, outpatient hospitals, or other center-based settings where most of the children have disabilities.

### **No provider action necessary to receive natural environment enhanced reimbursement**

Providers do not need to take any action to receive the enhanced reimbursement. Wisconsin Medicaid will match paid (allowed) provider claims data with state B-3 data (Human Services Reporting System) to determine services eligible for enhanced reimbursement. Wisconsin Medicaid will do the following:

- Continue to process and pay therapy claims and report their status on the Remittance and Status (R/S) Report.
- Send therapy providers their natural environment enhanced reimbursement as a quarterly lump sum payment. Enhanced reimbursement will be reflected as a cash payout on the therapy provider's R/S Report. Detailed information about the cash payout will not appear on the R/S Report. Providers will receive a separate report with detailed information about the cash payout.

**Only providers performing therapy services to children in the Birth to 3 Program are eligible for the enhanced reimbursement**

The natural environment enhanced reimbursement is only available for occupational therapists and assistants, physical therapists and assistants, speech-language pathologists, rehabilitation agencies, and therapy clinics for OT, PT, and SLP services. This enhanced reimbursement is paid to therapy providers on a per child, per DOS, per type of therapy basis.

*Examples of reimbursement*

The following represent two examples of natural environment enhanced reimbursement:

- If an occupational therapist provides services to three children in one day in the children's home(s), the occupational therapist is eligible for three separate enhanced reimbursements.
- If a physical therapist and speech-language pathologist provide service to the same child on the same day in the child's inclusive day care setting, both providers are eligible for the enhanced reimbursement.

**Place of service codes indicating natural environment**

Providers should continue to use the appropriate place of service code in Element 24B of the HCFA 1500 claim form. Refer to the Attachment of this *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* for the place of service codes eligible for the natural environment enhanced reimbursement.

**For more information**

If providers need more information or have questions about the natural environment enhanced reimbursement, they may contact Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883.

This *Update* contains Medicaid fee-for-service policy and applies to providers of services to recipients on fee-for-service Medicaid only. For Medicaid HMO or managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Wisconsin Medicaid HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/).

# ATTACHMENT

## Natural environment place of service codes

Providers should use the following place of service codes to be eligible for the natural environment enhanced reimbursement.

Natural environment place of service codes	
Place of Service Code	Description
0	<i>Other.</i> Other natural environments may include family child care, inclusive child care centers, or other settings where most of the children do not have disabilities. Natural environments do not include medical facilities such as therapy clinics, physician clinics, rehabilitation agencies, outpatient hospitals, or other center-based settings where most of the children have disabilities.
4	<i>Home.</i>