

To:  
Home Health  
Agencies  
Hospice Providers  
Nurses in  
Independent  
Practice  
Personal Care  
Agencies  
Physician Clinics  
Physicians  
HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Wisconsin Medicaid Accepts Physicians' Stamped Signatures from Home Care and Hospice Providers

Under specific conditions, Wisconsin Medicaid accepts physicians' stamped signatures on physician orders and plans of care (POC) for home care services, including attachments that are submitted with requests for prior authorization, and on POC for hospice providers. This change is effective immediately. Home care and hospice providers who accept physicians' stamped signatures are required to obtain specific documentation from the physician and maintain it in their records.

### Physicians' Stamped Signatures Accepted

Under specific conditions, Wisconsin Medicaid accepts physicians' stamped signatures on physician orders and plans of care (POC) for home care services, including attachments that are submitted with requests for prior authorization (PA), and on POC for hospice providers. This change is effective immediately.

The home care or hospice provider is required to meet *both* of the following requirements before accepting a physician's stamped signature:

- Obtain a dated statement from the physician with the physician's original signature attesting that he or she is the only person who possesses the signature stamp and is the only person who uses it.

- Maintain the signed and dated physician statement in the home care provider's records.

Wisconsin Medicaid will consider a stamped signature invalid if these requirements are not met. Payments made by Wisconsin Medicaid to a home care or hospice provider that are based on physician orders, authorized PA requests, or POC stamped with an invalid or improperly used signature stamp will be *subject to recoupment*. These requirements are similar to those of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for providers participating in Medicare.

### Signature Stamp Security Awareness for Physicians

Physicians using a signature stamp should be aware that this method is much less secure than a handwritten signature, creating the potential for misuse or abuse of the stamp. The individual whose name is on the signature stamp is responsible for and attests to the authenticity of the information. Physicians should check with their attorneys and malpractice insurers in regard to the use of a signature stamp.

## Information Regarding Medicaid HMOs

This *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare 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 [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/).

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