

To:  
Federally Qualified  
Health Centers  
Nurse Midwives  
Nurse  
Practitioners  
Physician  
Assistants  
Physician Clinics  
Physicians  
Rural Health  
Clinics  
HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## New Health Professional Shortage Area Modifier

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2006, providers will be required to use modifier “AQ” (Physician providing a service in a Health Professional Shortage Area [HPSA]) on claims to receive enhanced reimbursement for HPSA-eligible services. Modifier “AQ” replaces modifiers “QB” (Physician providing service in a rural HPSA) and “QU” (Physician providing service in an urban HPSA).

### Reminders

The enhanced reimbursement applies to Medicaid-certified primary care providers and emergency medicine providers for selected services when one or both of the following apply:

- The performing or billing provider is located in a HPSA-eligible ZIP code.
- The recipient has a residential address (according to Medicaid’s eligibility records) within a HPSA-eligible ZIP code.

Primary care and emergency medicine providers include physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives.

The enhanced reimbursement for HPSA-eligible primary care procedures is an additional 20 percent of the physician maximum allowable fee. The enhanced reimbursement for HPSA-eligible obstetrical procedures is an additional 50 percent of the physician maximum allowable fee.

Do *not* use modifier “TJ” (Program group, child and/or adolescent) with modifier “AQ” to indicate a pediatric HPSA service. Wisconsin Medicaid automatically calculates the pediatric bonus for HPSA-eligible services.

Refer to the Physician Services Handbook for more information on HPSAs.

### 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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