

# Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare update

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Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Information for Providers

To:  
All Providers  
HMOs and Other  
Managed Care  
Programs

## Medicaid Provider Responsibilities Involving the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program

The information in this *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is being published as a reminder to providers. Wisconsin Medicaid provides Birth to 3 (B-3) information because many B-3 participants are also Medicaid recipients.

Federal regulations require that all health, social service, education, and tribal programs receiving federal funds, including Medicaid providers, identify children who may be eligible for B-3 services. These children must be referred to the appropriate county B-3 program within *two working days* of identification.

### Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program

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### Requirements for Providers

Title 34 CFR Part 303 for B-3 services requires all health, social service, education, and tribal

programs receiving federal funds, including Medicaid providers, to do the following:

- Identify children who may be eligible for B-3 services. These children must be referred to the appropriate county B-3 program within *two working days* of identification. This includes children with developmental delays, atypical development, disabilities, and children who are substantiated as abused or neglected. For example, if a provider's health exam or developmental screen indicates that a child may have a qualifying disability or developmental delay, the child must be referred to the county B-3 program for evaluation. (Providers are encouraged to explain the need for the B-3 referral to the child's parents or guardians.)
- Cooperate and participate with B-3 service coordination as indicated in the child's Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP). Birth to 3 services must be provided by providers who are employed by, or under agreement with, a B-3 agency to provide B-3 services.
- Deliver B-3 services in the child's natural environment, unless otherwise specified in the IFSP. The child's natural environment includes the child's home and other community settings where children without disabilities participate.

- Assist parents or guardians of children receiving B-3 services to maximize their child's development and participate fully in implementation of their child's IFSP. For example, an occupational therapist is required to work closely with the child's parents and caretakers to show them how to perform daily tasks in ways that maximize the child's potential for development.

### Birth to 3 Eligibility Criteria

A child from birth up to (but not including) age three is eligible for B-3 services if the child meets one of the following criteria:

- The child has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.
- The child has at least a 25 percent delay in one or more of the following areas of development:
  - ✓ Cognitive development.
  - ✓ Physical development, including vision and hearing.
  - ✓ Communication skills.
  - ✓ Social or emotional development.
  - ✓ Adaptive development, which includes self-help skills.
- Atypical development affects the child's overall development, as determined by a qualified team using professionally acceptable procedures and informed clinical opinion.

### Individualized Family Services Plan

A B-3 participant receives an IFSP developed by an interdisciplinary team that includes the child's family. The IFSP provides a description of the outcomes, strategies, supports, services appropriate to meet the needs of the child and family, and the natural environment settings where services will be provided. All B-3 services must be identified in the child's IFSP.

### Birth to 3 Services

The B-3 Program covers the following types of services when they are included in the child's IFSP:

- Evaluation and assessment.
- Special instruction.
- Occupational therapy.
- Physical therapy.
- Speech and language pathology.
- Audiology.
- Psychology.
- Social work.
- Assistive technology.
- Transportation.
- Service coordination.
- Certain medical services for diagnosis and evaluation purposes.
- Certain health services to enable the child to benefit from early intervention services.
- Family training, counseling, and home visits.

### Administration and Regulations

In Wisconsin, B-3 services are administered at the local level by county departments of community programs, human service departments, public health agencies, or any other public agency designated or contracted by the county board of supervisors. The Department of Health and Family Services monitors, provides technical assistance, and offers other services to county B-3 agencies.

The enabling federal legislation for the B-3 Program is 34 CFR Part 303. The enabling state legislation is s. 51.44, Wis. Stats., and the regulations are found in ch. HFS 90, Wis. Admin. Code.

Providers may contact the appropriate county B-3 agency for more information. Providers should refer to the B-3 Web site at [dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/birthto3/) for contact information.

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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