

To: Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Specialists, Speech and Hearing Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Hearing Services and Hearing Instruments Under BadgerCare Plus

BadgerCare Plus, the new state-sponsored health care program, will be implemented in February 2008. This *Update* describes the policies for hearing services and hearing instruments under BadgerCare Plus.

BadgerCare Plus Overview

In January 2007, Governor Jim Doyle included in his 2007-09 Biennial Budget proposal an innovative state-sponsored health care program to expand coverage to Wisconsin residents and ensure that all children in Wisconsin have access to affordable health care. This new program is called BadgerCare Plus, and it will start on February 1, 2008.

BadgerCare Plus merges family Medicaid, BadgerCare, and Healthy Start into a single program. BadgerCare Plus will expand enrollment to:

- All uninsured children.
- More pregnant women.
- More parents and caretaker relatives.
- Parents with children in foster care who are working to reunify their families.
- Young adults exiting out-of-home care, such as foster care, because they have turned 18 years of age.
- Certain farmers and other self-employed parents and caretaker relatives.

All individuals enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid will be referred to as “members.”

BadgerCare Plus is comprised of two benefit plans, the Standard Plan and the Benchmark Plan. The services covered under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan are the

same as the current Wisconsin Medicaid program; therefore, the term “Standard Plan” will be used in all future *Updates* to describe the shared policy and billing information. The BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan is a more limited plan, modeled after commercial insurance.

New services covered under BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid include over-the-counter tobacco cessation products for all members and mental health and substance abuse screening, preventive mental health counseling, and substance abuse intervention services for pregnant women at risk of mental health or substance abuse problems. Future *Updates* will describe these new benefits in detail.

Refer to the November 2007 *Update* (2007-79), titled “Introduction to BadgerCare Plus — Wisconsin’s New Health Care Program,” for general information on covered and noncovered services, copayments, and enrollment.

Covered and Noncovered Services

Standard Plan

Limitations, prior authorization requirements, and reimbursement for hearing services covered under the Standard Plan are the same as those covered under the current Wisconsin Medicaid program.

Benchmark Plan

The cost of hearing instruments and related services (procedure codes V5014-V5299, V5336, and 92590-92595),

cochlear implants, and bone-anchored hearing devices are not covered under the Benchmark Plan.

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization policy and procedures are the same under the Standard Plan and Benchmark Plan as they are under the current Wisconsin Medicaid program.

Reimbursement

Providers will be reimbursed for services provided to members at the current Wisconsin Medicaid rate of reimbursement for covered services.

Copayments

Standard Plan

Copayment amounts under the Standard Plan are the same as they are under the current Wisconsin Medicaid program. Refer to previously published service-specific publications for more information on copayment amounts.

Policy regarding members who are subject to copayments and members who are exempt from copayments is different than that of the current Wisconsin Medicaid program.

Providers should note that the following Standard Plan members **are subject to copayment** for services where copayment applies:

- Members enrolled in BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan HMOs (previously referred to as Medicaid HMOs).
- Members under 18 years of age with incomes above 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Providers are prohibited from collecting copayments from the following Standard Plan members:

- Nursing home residents.
- Pregnant women.
- Members under 18 years of age who are members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Members under 18 years of age with incomes at or below 100 percent of the FPL.

Under the Standard Plan, providers **cannot** deny services if a member fails to make his or her copayment.

Benchmark Plan

There is a \$15.00 copayment per visit for “Removal impacted cerumen (separate procedure), one or both ears” (*Current Procedural Terminology* procedure code 69210).

No other copayment applies for hearing services.

The following members are exempt from copayment requirements under the Benchmark Plan:

- Pregnant women.
- Members under 18 years of age who are members of a federally recognized tribe.

No other members or services are exempt from the copayment requirement under the Benchmark Plan.

Under the Benchmark Plan, a provider has the right to deny services if the member fails to make his or her copayment.

Information Regarding BadgerCare Plus HMOs

BadgerCare Plus HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization.

The *BadgerCare Plus Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers. All information applies to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus unless otherwise noted in the *Update*.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, 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/.

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