

To: Current Presumptive Eligibility Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Express Enrollment in BadgerCare Plus for Pregnant Women

BadgerCare Plus, the new state-sponsored health care program, will be implemented in February 2008. This *Update* describes the policies for Express Enrollment for pregnant women 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.

Express Enrollment for Pregnant Women

Pregnant women with incomes up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level can temporarily enroll in BadgerCare Plus and receive pregnancy-related outpatient and pharmacy services under BadgerCare Plus while an application for full benefits is being processed by the county/tribal office.

Express Enrollment (EE) — previously referred to as Presumptive Eligibility (PE) — runs from the date of application to the **end of the following month**. If an application submitted to the county/tribal office is not

processed before the end of the second month, the temporary enrollment period will be extended one month.

Because EE for pregnant women is temporary and covers **only** pregnancy-related outpatient services, it is important for pregnant women to apply for full BadgerCare Plus coverage to receive full benefits. Health care providers are encouraged to assist in this process. If providers are unable to assist, members should be referred to the local county/tribal office to apply for full coverage.

Note: Express Enrollment does **not** cover the cost of hospitalization, including costs for childbirth.

If an application is submitted to a county/tribal office and enrollment in BadgerCare Plus is denied, the temporary enrollment period ends on the same date BadgerCare Plus enrollment is denied.

The county/tribal office will determine the plan in which the member can enroll — the Standard Plan or the Benchmark Plan.

Express Enrollment Process

Qualified providers can temporarily enroll pregnant women in BadgerCare Plus using the Web-based EE tool at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners/>. The online EE tool, which will be available starting January 14, 2008, will replace the existing paper application process for PE for pregnant women.

Note: Effective with the February 1, 2008, implementation of BadgerCare Plus, the current paper application and instructions will be invalid. A sample revised application and revised instructions will be available in the Presumptive Eligibility Guide for Pregnant Women, PHC 1302, on the Medicaid Web site on February 1, 2008.

Once a pregnant woman is temporarily enrolled — via EE — in BadgerCare Plus, certified health care providers are encouraged to assist her in completing the **full** online application for BadgerCare Plus and submitting it to the

local county/tribal office. This will help to ensure that there is no break in coverage.

Qualifying to Provide Express Enrollment Services to Pregnant Women

A provider currently certified to make PE determinations for pregnant women will automatically qualify to use the EE tool to temporarily enroll pregnant women in BadgerCare Plus. Providers will receive a personal identification number (PIN) and instructions to begin the process of enrolling online. If the PIN and instructions are not received by February 1, 2008, providers should call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883.

Note: As of February 1, 2008, the EE application for pregnant women should be completed and submitted electronically using the previously described EE tool, which will be available at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners> starting January 14, 2008. The EE process for the Family Planning Waiver is not changing at this time.

Express Enrollment for Children

Community partners and health care providers who would like to complete the EE process for children should go to <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners/> for an application and instructions.

Information Regarding BadgerCare Plus HMOs

Women who are temporarily enrolled in BadgerCare Plus through the EE process are not eligible for enrollment in an HMO until they are determined eligible for full benefit BadgerCare Plus by the county/tribal office.

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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