

To: Chiropractors, Dentists, Family Planning Clinics, HealthCheck Providers, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Opticians, Optometrists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Podiatrists, Specialized Medical Vehicle Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Specialized Medical Vehicle Services Under BadgerCare Plus

BadgerCare Plus, the new state-sponsored health care program, will be implemented in February 2008. Specialized medical vehicle services **will be covered** under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan. Specialized medical vehicle services **will not be covered** for BadgerCare Plus members enrolled in the Benchmark Plan.

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.

Specialized Medical Vehicle Services Under BadgerCare Plus

Standard Plan

Policy and procedures for specialized medical vehicle services are the same under the Standard Plan as they are under the current Wisconsin Medicaid program except for copayments.

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 Standard Plan 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

Specialized medical vehicle services **are not covered** under the Benchmark Plan.

Benchmark Plan members may request noncovered services from the provider. Providers may collect reimbursement for noncovered services from the member if the member accepts responsibility for payment and makes payment arrangements with the provider. Providers are strongly encouraged to obtain a written statement in advance documenting that the member has accepted responsibility for payment of the service.

A future *Update* will address policies and procedures for billing BadgerCare Plus members for noncovered services.

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 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/.

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