

**To:** All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Express Enrollment in BadgerCare Plus for Children

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

Children 18 years of age or younger who apply with a parent or guardian and whose family income is at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level can temporarily enroll in BadgerCare Plus via Express Enrollment (EE) and receive health care coverage under BadgerCare Plus while a full application is being processed by their local county or tribal agency. Children who are temporarily enrolled in BadgerCare Plus will receive services under the Standard Plan. Express Enrollment runs from the date of application to the **end of the following month**. If an application submitted to the local county or tribal agency is not

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

The local county or tribal agency that processes a member's full BadgerCare Plus application will determine whether the member qualifies for coverage under the Standard Plan or the Benchmark Plan.

### **Express Enrollment Process**

Qualified community partners and health care providers can use the Web-based EE tool to temporarily enroll children in BadgerCare Plus online at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners/>. This Web site will be available starting January 14, 2008.

Once a child's application is submitted through EE, partners/providers are encouraged to assist the parent or guardian in completing and submitting the full online application for BadgerCare Plus benefits. The online application is available at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners/>.

### **Qualifying to Provide Express Enrollment Services to Children**

Community partners and health care providers who are interested in using the Web-based EE tool to complete temporary enrollment applications for children should go to <https://access.wisconsin.gov/partners/> for an application and instructions.

### **Information Regarding BadgerCare Plus HMOs**

Children who are temporarily enrolled in BadgerCare Plus through the EE process are not eligible for enrollment in an HMO until determined eligible for full-benefit BadgerCare Plus by the local county or tribal agency.

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/](https://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/).

PHC 1250