

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

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

Changes to Copayments for Hearing Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan

Copayments for hearing services covered under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan will now be charged per visit and not per procedure. This policy is effective for dates of service on and after the October 2008 implementation of ForwardHealth interChange.

Copayment Amounts for Hearing Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan

The copayment amount for hearing services covered under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan is \$15.00 **per visit**. A visit is defined as all hearing services provided on the same date of service by the same rendering provider. A single \$15.00 copayment applies regardless of the number or type of procedures administered during the visit.

Providers should refer to the Attachment to the May 2008 *BadgerCare Plus Update* (2008-34), titled “Clarification of Coverage and Copayments for Hearing Services and Hearing Instruments, Including Cochlear Implants and Bone-Anchored Hearing Devices, Under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan,” for a complete list of services covered under the Benchmark Plan. Providers should note that the copayment policy in *Update* 2008-34 will be invalid after the October 2008 implementation of ForwardHealth interChange.

Certain members may be exempt from copayment requirements under the Benchmark Plan. Providers should always contact WiCall (also known as the Automated Voice Response system) at (800) 947-3544 to verify member enrollment and to check if the member is subject to a copayment.

Information Regarding Managed Care

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organizations. HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/.

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