

Affected Programs: All Programs

To: All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

ForwardHealth interChange Implementation Is Postponed

The planned implementation date of October 13, 2008, for ForwardHealth interChange has been postponed for one month. The Department of Health Services has determined it is best to postpone the start date for the new system from October 13, 2008, to **November 10, 2008**, in order to reach its overall objective for ensuring that the implementation of the new system is as successful as possible for the state, providers, state-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs), trading partners, vendors, and partners. The delay will allow additional time for trading partners and providers to complete their system and operational readiness activities.

Providers, trading partners, MCOs, and partners should use this additional time to do the following:

- Report their National Provider Identifier (NPI) to ForwardHealth and start submitting electronic claims with only their NPI and related data.
- Request a personal identification number and establish a provider account on the ForwardHealth Portal for themselves or their organization.
- Conduct trading partner authorization testing or check that their trading partner has conducted authorization testing.
- Designate a trading partner to receive the 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice transaction for themselves or their organization.
- Read all *ForwardHealth Updates* and other publications pertaining to implementation.

- Check the ForwardHealth Web site frequently at dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/ for new *Updates* or other important implementation news.

Disregard the August 2008 *Update* (2008-149), titled “Planned Effective Dates for Claim Submission and Other Changes for ForwardHealth interChange Implementation,” and the August 2008 *Update* (2008-150), titled “Planned Effective Dates for Prior Authorization Changes for ForwardHealth interChange Implementation.”

Information on the project, including the new implementation date and revised effective dates, will be published in a future *Update* and posted to the ForwardHealth Web site. Providers are encouraged to check the Web site for late-breaking news, frequently asked questions, training opportunities, and key information regarding the transition.

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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