

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare

**To:** Blood Banks, Dispensing Physicians, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Inpatient Hospital Providers, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, Outpatient Hospital Providers, Pharmacies, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Podiatrists, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## **Risperdal Requires Brand Medically Necessary Prior Authorization**

As a result of the release of the generic equivalent drug for Risperdal®, risperidone was added to the Maximum Allowed Cost list effective August 1, 2008. To allow time for prescribers to transition members to risperidone, the brand medically necessary prior authorization (PA) policy requirement was postponed until November 1, 2008. Effective for dates of service on and after November 1, 2008, a brand medically necessary PA request is required for Risperdal®.

As a result of the release of the generic equivalent drug for Risperdal®, risperidone was added to the Maximum Allowed Cost (MAC) list effective August 1, 2008.

To allow time for prescribers to transition members to risperidone, the brand medically necessary prior authorization (PA) policy requirement was postponed until November 1, 2008. For dates of service (DOS) on and after November 1, 2008, a brand medically necessary PA request is required for Risperdal®.

*Note:* If a member is currently taking risperidone, no further action is needed by the prescriber.

The BadgerCare Plus brand medically necessary policy requires that a generic equivalent drug be prescribed when available. If it is determined that it is medically necessary for a member to receive Risperdal®, prescribers should complete the appropriate Prior Authorization/Brand Medically Necessary Attachment

(PA/BMNA) and submit it with complete clinical documentation to the pharmacy where the prescription will be filled. Pharmacy providers should submit the PA/BMNA with a completed Prior Authorization Request Form (PA/RF), F-11018 (10/08), to ForwardHealth. Prescribers were mailed letters in October 2008 that include information to help with this process.

For DOS on and after November 1, 2008, brand medically necessary PA is required for Risperdal®. Providers may submit PA requests for Risperdal® to ForwardHealth for DOS on and after November 1, 2008. Pharmacy providers should begin working with prescribers to either change the member's Risperdal® prescription to risperidone or submit a PA request to ForwardHealth with the appropriate clinical documentation. Providers should submit PA requests for brand medically necessary drugs as early as possible to allow members to remain on the brand name drug if medically necessary.

Prescribers are reminded that they are required to hand write "Brand Medically Necessary" on a prescription when it is medically necessary for a member to take a brand name drug.

Providers should refer to the June 2008 *BadgerCare Plus Update* (2008-40), titled “Brand Medically Necessary Prior Authorization Requirements,” for information about submitting PA requests and PA documentation requirements for brand medically necessary drugs. For information about dispensing a 14-day emergency supply of a drug in situations where a prescriber or pharmacy provider deems it medically necessary, providers may refer to the February 2007 *Update* (2007-14), titled “Emergency Medication Dispensing.”

### **Prior Authorization/Brand Medically Attachment**

Drug PA requests submitted using the PA/BMNA, HCF-11083 (07/08), must be received by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 7, 2008. ForwardHealth will begin accepting PA requests using the revised PA/BMNA, F-11083 (10/08), on Saturday, November 8, 2008, at 8:00 a.m.

The PA/BMNA should be completed by a prescriber and submitted to the pharmacy provider where the prescription will be filled. Pharmacy providers should complete a PA/RF and submit it with the PA/BMNA to BadgerCare Plus.

Providers may refer to the September 2008 *ForwardHealth Update* (2008-184), titled “New Effective Dates for ForwardHealth Implementation,” for information about submitting PA request forms.

### **Information Regarding Managed Care**

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. Pharmacy services for members enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the Family Care Partnership are provided by the member’s managed care organization. Managed care organizations must provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service.

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). The 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/](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/).

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