

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: End-Stage Renal Disease Providers; HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

End-Stage Renal Disease Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults

The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults will be implemented on January 1, 2009, as part of Wisconsin's comprehensive health care reform. This *ForwardHealth Update* describes the coverage and policies for end-stage renal disease services under the Core Plan.

As a result of the recent downturn in the national economy, the expansion of the Core Plan will be implemented in phases. Phase I, which includes individuals currently enrolled in Milwaukee County's General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP) and other counties' general assistance medical programs, will begin on January 1, 2009. The timeframe for adding new phases will be determined as the Department of Health Services moves forward.

Refer to the December 2008 *Update* (2008-199), titled "Introducing the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults" for general information about covered and noncovered services, reimbursement, copayment, and enrollment.

BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Overview

The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults covers basic health care services including primary and preventive care, generic drugs, and a limited number of brand name prescription drugs.

In Milwaukee County, members will receive benefits under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan on a fee-for-

service basis from January 1, 2009, through March 31, 2009. Effective April 1, 2009, Core Plan members in Milwaukee County will be enrolled in the state-contracted HMOs that serve Wisconsin's Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus population. Members will be sent enrollment choice materials beginning in January 2009 and will enroll through Automated Health Systems, Inc., the State's enrollment broker, as they currently do with the BadgerCare Plus population.

Individuals who are converting to the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan from non-Milwaukee County general assistance programs will receive their Core Plan benefits on a fee-for-service basis.

All members enrolled in the Core Plan will receive a ForwardHealth identification card.

Covered and Noncovered Services

End-stage renal disease (ESRD) services covered under the Core Plan are the same as those covered under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan. This includes dialysis and other kidney-related services for members with ESRD who do not qualify for Medicare ESRD services. Refer to the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal for covered services, policies, and procedures.

Reimbursement

As required by 2005 Wisconsin Act 23 of the 2003-2005 biennial budget and Act 25 of the 2005-2007 biennial budget, providers will be reimbursed for services provided to members enrolled in the Core Plan by the Medicare methodology.

Copayments

Copayments for ESRD services is \$3.00 per date of service (DOS) only when dialysis is *not* provided on the DOS.

Enrollment Verification

It is imperative that providers verify a member's enrollment to determine if they are covered and the plan in which the member is enrolled. Providers are reminded to *always* verify a member's enrollment *before* providing services, both to determine that the individual is enrolled for the current date and to discover any limitations to the member's coverage. Providers have several options to obtain enrollment information through Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System and should refer to the Online Handbook for more information. Refer to the December 2008 *Update* (2008-200), titled "Member Enrollment Verification for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults," for more information.

For More Information

For more information or questions regarding the Core Plan, providers may call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

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 www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

P-1250