

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: Ambulance Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Ambulance 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 ambulance 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 1, which includes individuals already 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 care, preventive care, generic drugs, and a limited number of brand name prescription drugs.

In Milwaukee County, members will receive benefits under the 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 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

Ambulance services covered under the Core Plan are limited to emergency transportation by land or air ambulance. Non-emergency transportation by ambulance is not covered under the Core Plan. Refer to the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal for covered services, policies, and procedures.

Prior Authorization

There is no prior authorization for these services in the Core Plan.

Reimbursement

Providers will be reimbursed for services provided to members enrolled in the Core Plan at the current

Wisconsin Medicaid rate of reimbursement for covered services.

Copayments

There are no copayments for emergency transportation by ambulance.

Enrollment Verification

It is imperative that providers verify a member's enrollment to determine if they are covered. 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/.

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