

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Family Planning Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Family Planning-Related 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 family planning-related 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 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

Core Plan Only Members

Family planning services are not covered under the Core Plan. However, physician services that could be considered family planning services are covered under the Core Plan. These services will be subject to the same

copayment and other policies as other physician services. If the member is enrolled in an HMO, services must be provided through the member's HMO network.

Members Enrolled in Core Plan and Family Planning Waiver

Eligible female members will be given the opportunity to enroll in the Family Planning Waiver (FPW) also. Members enrolled in both the Core Plan and the FPW are eligible for all the services covered under each of these plans. These members may receive family planning services from a family planning clinic or from any other health care provider allowed under BadgerCare Plus. Services covered under the FPW are reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, regardless of HMO enrollment.

If providers submit claims to the BadgerCare Plus HMO for family planning-related physician services, the HMO will be required to cover the service as a physician service under the Core Plan. Policies applicable to physician services will apply. For Core Plan members who are also enrolled in FPW, providers are encouraged to submit claims to BadgerCare Plus fee-for-service to ensure they are covered under the FPW benefit plan.

Providers must refer to the Online Handbook for coverage and reimbursement policies for both of these plans when providing services.

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

Family planning-related physician services covered under the Core Plan are subject to the same copayments as

other physician services. Copayments do not apply for family planning services covered under the FPW.

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/.

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