

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

Medicare Grouper Version 25 Implementation and Claim Adjustments

Effective March 1, 2009, ForwardHealth will implement Medicare Grouper Version 25 for the processing and reimbursement of inpatient hospital claims. In late March 2009, ForwardHealth will begin to retroactively adjust affected claims for dates of discharge back to July 1, 2008.

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The implementation of Medicare Grouper Version 25 affects the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults, and Medicaid.

Medicare Grouper Version 25 was initially announced in the February 2008 *BadgerCare Plus Update* (2008-15), titled "Implementation of Medicare Grouper Version 25" and is the result of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services adoption of the Medicare Severity diagnosis-related group (MS-DRG) classification system for hospital inpatient prospective payment systems.

Claims Adjustments

ForwardHealth will adjust claims for dates of discharge back to July 1, 2008, based on the conversion to

Medicare Grouper Version 25 and the publishing of the state budget for fiscal year 2009 for inpatient and outpatient hospital rates.

Implementation of New Rates

The Wisconsin state legislature's budget for fiscal year 2009 affects inpatient and outpatient hospital rates. Applicable rates and weights will be available on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/. Additionally, letters announcing the new rates will be sent to affected providers.

Note: Rates for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan will be different than the rates for the other applicable programs.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *Update* contains BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Managed care organizations are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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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