

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

**To:** Express Enrollment Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Changes to Express Enrollment in BadgerCare Plus for Children and Pregnant Women

ForwardHealth has broadened the requirements for children to be eligible for Express Enrollment. In addition, the validity dates for temporary cards for children and pregnant women is changing. This *ForwardHealth Update* describes these new policies.

### More Children Are Now Eligible for Express Enrollment

ForwardHealth is broadening the requirements for Express Enrollment (EE) for children to allow more children to enroll. Previously, EE for children was limited to children 18 years or younger with a family income at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Effective April 1, 2009, children who meet the following criteria can temporarily enroll in BadgerCare Plus via EE and receive health care coverage under BadgerCare Plus while a full application is being processed by their local county or tribal agency:

- Children younger than age 1 whose family income is at or below **300** percent of the FPL.
- Children ages 1 through 5 whose family income is at or below 185 percent of the FPL.
- Children ages 6 through 18 whose family income is at or below 150 percent of the FPL.

### One Period of Temporary Enrollment Per Child Per Year

Effective April 1, 2009, a child is allowed to have only one period of temporary enrollment in a 12-month period. Therefore, it is important for children to apply for full BadgerCare Plus coverage as soon as possible to avoid gaps in health care coverage.

The period of temporary enrollment remains the same. Temporary enrollment will still run from the date of application to the *end of the following month*. However, if an application is submitted to a local county or tribal agency and enrollment in full BadgerCare Plus is denied, the temporary enrollment period ends on the same date BadgerCare Plus enrollment is denied.

If an application submitted to the local county or tribal agency is not processed before the end of the second month, the local agency will extend the enrollment period by one month.

### Temporary Express Enrollment Cards

Children and pregnant women who are temporarily enrolled in BadgerCare Plus via EE will receive a temporary card that is valid for 14 days. These members will receive a ForwardHealth identification card to replace the temporary card, usually within three business days after the EE application is submitted and approved. To ensure children and pregnant women

receive needed services in a timely manner, providers should continue to accept the printed paper EE cards for children and either the printed paper EE card or the beige identification cards for pregnant women for the dates printed on the card. Providers may use Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System to verify enrollment for dates after those printed on the card. Providers are encouraged to keep a photocopy of the card.

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/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

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