

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Specialists, Speech and Hearing Clinics

Changes to Hearing Aid Contracts Effective July 1, 2009

Effective July 1, 2009, through August 31, 2009, hearing aid model contract agreements have been extended from the previous year. This *ForwardHealth Update* provides information about the contract extension and a change regarding hearing aid manufacturers.

Extension of Contract Agreements

The Division of Health Care Access and Accountability (DHCAA) will sign new volume purchase contracts with hearing aid manufacturers effective for hearing aids dispensed on and after September 1, 2009. In the interim, the current contract with hearing aid manufacturers have been extended until August 31, 2009. The volume purchase contracts for hearing aids are part of the volume purchase program for durable medical equipment. The pricing of hearing aids will not change under the contract extension.

Discontinuation of Electone, Inc., Hearing Aid Models

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2009, the hearing aid manufacturer Electone, Inc., is no longer contracted with ForwardHealth. Previously submitted prior authorization requests for an Electone model will be returned to the provider. Repairs to Electone models will still be covered under the manufacturer's warranty but must be coordinated between the provider and manufacturer. Refer to the Online Handbook for contact information for manufacturers.

Reminders

Providers are reminded that hearing aids are covered for members enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and Wisconsin Medicaid. The BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan do not cover hearing aids or batteries for hearing aids.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains 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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