

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, Medicaid

To: Nurses in Independent Practice, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

ForwardHealth Discontinues Separate Reimbursement for Care Coordination of Private Duty Nursing Services to Ventilator Dependent Members

This *ForwardHealth Update* describes a reimbursement change for registered nurses in independent practice for care coordination of private duty nursing services to members dependent on a ventilator for life support.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Rate Reform Project

To identify reforms that help the Department of Health Services (DHS) meet the 2009-2011 biennial budget targets, the DHS along with representative industry stakeholders undertook the Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Rate Reform Project. The purpose of this process was to comprehensively examine how Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus purchase specific health care services, improve the performance of ForwardHealth programs, and encourage more integrated and cost-effective care.

Separate Reimbursement for Care Coordination of Private Duty Nursing Services Discontinued

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after December 1, 2009, ForwardHealth will discontinue separate reimbursement to registered nurses in independent practice for care coordination of private duty nursing (PDN) services to members dependent on a ventilator for life support. This change makes the

reimbursement to registered nurses in independent practice consistent with the reimbursement to home health agencies for the same services.

ForwardHealth will not reimburse *Current Procedural Terminology* procedure code 99504 (Home visit for mechanical ventilation care [per hour]) with the “U1” modifier (Registered Nurse Case Coordinator) for DOS on and after December 1, 2009, regardless of prior authorization (PA).

The requirement for care coordination when more than one nurse is necessary to staff the member’s case remains unchanged. As a reminder, according to DHS 107.12(2)(d), Wis. Admin. Code, when requesting PA to care for a member who requires more than one private duty nurse to provide medically necessary care, a nurse shall include on the PA request the name and license number of the registered nurse performing care coordination.

Private duty nursing services are covered under Wisconsin Medicaid and the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan. The BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Adults with No Dependent Children do not cover PDN services.

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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