

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Ambulance Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Organizations

Ambulance Services Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Department of Health Services will begin accepting applications for enrollment in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan on June 1, 2010, with benefits starting on July 1, 2010. This *ForwardHealth Update* describes the coverage and policies for ambulance services under the Basic Plan.

Refer to the June 2010 *Update* (2010-42), titled "Introducing the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan," for general information about covered and noncovered services, reimbursement, copayment, and enrollment.

Overview of BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Implementation

In October 2009, enrollment in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan was closed. Enrollment applications submitted to the Core Plan after the cutoff date are not processed, but the individuals are put on a waitlist.

Individuals on the waitlist for the Core Plan can begin enrolling in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan on June 1, 2010, with benefits starting on July 1, 2010. The Basic Plan is a self-funded plan that focuses on providing the Core Plan waitlist members with access to vital, cost-effective primary and preventive care. This option will allow members to have some minimal form of coverage until space becomes available in the Core Plan and will help prevent bankruptcy due to excessive medical debt.

Member participation or non-participation in the Basic Plan does not affect an individual's status on the Core Plan waitlist.

Services for the Basic Plan will be covered under fee-for-service. Basic Plan members will not be enrolled in state-contracted HMOs.

Covered and Noncovered Services

Ambulance services covered under the Basic Plan are limited to emergency transportation by land or air ambulance. Non-emergency transportation by ambulance is not covered under the Basic Plan. Refer to the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/ for covered services, policies, and procedures.

Prior Authorization

There is no prior authorization for these services in the Basic Plan.

Reimbursement

Providers will be reimbursed for services provided to members enrolled in the Basic Plan at the current Wisconsin Medicaid rate of reimbursement for covered services.

Copayments

There are no copayments for emergency transportation by ambulance.

Enrollment Verification

The Basic Plan offers different covered services, noncovered services, and copayments than the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, or the Core Plan. It is imperative that providers verify a member's enrollment and determine the plan under which he or she is covered. Providers are reminded to *always* verify a member's enrollment *before* providing services to determine enrollment at the current date (since a member's enrollment status may change) and discover any limitations to the member's coverage.

For More Information

For more information or questions regarding the Basic Plan, providers may call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627. Basic Plan members should contact Member Services at (800) 362-3002.

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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