

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: End-Stage Renal Disease Service Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

End-Stage Renal Disease Services Covered 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 end-stage renal disease 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 Services

End-stage renal disease (ESRD) services covered under the Basic Plan are the same as those covered under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, and the Core Plan. End-stage renal disease services include dialysis and other kidney-related services for members with a diagnosis of ESRD who do not qualify for Medicare ESRD services.

Note: End-stage renal disease service providers who submit claims as an ESRD facility are not subject to the Basic Plan's outpatient hospital limitations. Refer to the June 2010 *ForwardHealth Update* (2010-51), titled "Hospital Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan," for more information on hospital services covered under the Basic Plan.

Copayments

Copayment for ESRD services provided under the Basic Plan is \$10.00 per visit.

Under the Basic Plan, a provider has the right to deny services if the member fails to make his or her copayment.

Reimbursement

Providers will be reimbursed for services provided to members enrolled in the Basic Plan by the Medicare methodology, as is presently the case for BadgerCare Plus ESRD claims.

Enrollment Verification

It is imperative that providers verify a member's enrollment to determine the plan in which the member is enrolled. Providers are reminded to *always* verify a member's enrollment *before* providing services, both to determine that the individual is enrolled for the current date and to discover any limitations to the member's coverage. Providers have several options to obtain enrollment information through Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System and should refer to the

Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/ for more information.

For More Information

For more information or questions regarding the Basic Plan, providers may call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627. Providers can refer Basic Plan members with questions to 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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