ForwardHealth
Wisconsin serving you

Update
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Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: Ambulatory Surgery Centers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Access Payments for Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2009, ambulatory surgery centers will receive an access payment for services provided to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members.

Access Payments for Ambulatory Surgery Centers

The 2009-2011 biennial budget provides additional money for ambulatory surgery centers to ensure access to ambulatory surgery services for Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members. Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after July 1, 2009, ambulatory surgery centers will receive an access payment for services provided to members enrolled in Medicaid, the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, and the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan. The access payment will apply to claims in a "pay" status. Only in-state, non-border status providers will receive access payments.

Note: Reimbursement for services provided to members in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan or the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan does not include access payments.

For Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus covered services, the access payment will be equal to 300 percent of ForwardHealth's maximum allowable fee for the service when the following are true:

- The claim is in a "pay" status.
- ForwardHealth's paid amount is greater than zero.

The access payment is in addition to the maximum allowable fee. Beginning with the August 13, 2010, financial cycle, reimbursement for claims for ambulatory surgery center services with DOS on and after July 1, 2009, that are in a pay status will include the access payment.

For covered services received on Medicare crossover claims in a pay status, the access payment will be a flat rate of $500.00 per DOS, regardless of ForwardHealth's paid amount. The access payment is included in addition to ForwardHealth's paid amount on the claim.

ForwardHealth will adjust claims in a pay status with DOS on and after July 1, 2009, to apply the access payment. In September 2010, ForwardHealth will reprocess claims with DOS on and after July 1, 2009, that were processed and paid prior to the August 13, 2010, financial cycle to reimburse providers for the access payment.

Access payments will be provided only until the money budgeted for access payments for the fiscal year has been paid out. Once the budgeted amount has been paid out, the payments will be discontinued until the next fiscal year.

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. Refer to the managed care organization (MCO) contract for provisions for ambulatory surgery center access payments for services members receive through an MCO.

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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