

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

**To:** HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## **Announcing New Companion Guides for the 820 Payroll Deducted and Other Group Premium Payment for Insurance Products and the 834 Benefit Enrollment and Maintenance Transactions**

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains important information for managed care organizations regarding electronic transactions received from ForwardHealth. Health plans receiving this *Update* should forward it to the appropriate technical or Electronic Data Interchange contact person within their organization or to their billing service or clearinghouse.

Each Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)-covered entity is responsible for ensuring its own compliance with Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 version 5010 transaction requirements by the compliance date of January 1, 2012. Providers who contract with billing services and clearinghouses are responsible for ensuring the services provided by their contractors are compliant with HIPAA ASC X12 standards and ForwardHealth requirements.

### **New Companion Guides**

Beginning June 30, 2011, managed care organization (MCO) trading partners and others may download the new companion guides (formerly referred to as companion documents) from the ForwardHealth Portal at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/) for the 820 Payroll Deducted and Other Group Premium Payment for Insurance Products (820) transaction and the 834 Benefit Enrollment and Maintenance (834) transaction. The new companion guides

will completely replace the companion documents used for version 4010 and will not include the summary of changes known as the “revision log.”

Companion guides provide ForwardHealth-specific information that should be used with the national HIPAA ASC X12 Implementation Guides. Implementation Guides define the national data standards, electronic format, and values for each data element within an electronic transaction.

Companion guides are not intended to communicate ForwardHealth policy information; policy information is located in the ForwardHealth Online Handbook on the Portal. Future *ForwardHealth Updates* will also detail policy and billing information.

### **Testing Packets Available**

Before MCO trading partners can download any version 5010 transactions from the production environment, they are required to follow the instructions found in the 5010 MCO Testing Packet on the HIPAA ASC X12 Version 5010 and NCPDP Version D.0 Implementation Page of the ForwardHealth Portal. The revised 5010 Managed Care Organization Testing Packet will be available by August 1, 2011.

*Managed Care Organization trading partners will not be required to conduct compliance testing of electronic transactions.*

## **Dual Processing Period**

ForwardHealth will provide a transition or dual processing period during which MCO trading partners may download either version 4010 or version 5010 for both the 820 and the 834 transactions.

During the dual processing period, key downloading dates for the 820 transaction include the following:

- The first 820 production file available in both version 4010 and 5010 formats: November 8, 2011.
- The final 820 production file available in both version 4010 and 5010 formats: December 27, 2011.
- The first 820 production file available in version 5010 format only: January 3, 2012.

Key version 5010 downloading dates for the 834 transaction include the following:

- The first 834 production file available in both version 4010 and 5010 formats: November 21, 2011.
- The final 834 production file available in both version 4010 and 5010 formats: December 2, 2011.
- The first 834 production file available in version 5010 format only: December 23, 2011.

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/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

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