Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare, Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program, Wisconsin Well Woman Program

To: All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Providers May Change or Add Taxonomy Codes

Beginning September 19, 2011, providers may change or add to the taxonomy codes they wish to use when conducting business with ForwardHealth, if the codes are different from what ForwardHealth currently has on file. Providers who wish to continue to use their ForwardHealth-designated taxonomy code do not need to take any action.

Beginning September 19, 2011, providers may change or add to the taxonomy codes they wish to use when conducting business with ForwardHealth. This new policy will allow providers to use the same taxonomy codes across all payers, including Medicare. Providers who wish to continue to use their ForwardHealth-designated taxonomy code do not need to take any action. This ForwardHealth policy comes as a result of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 version 5010 transaction standard changes, which clarify the use of taxonomy codes.

Providers are allowed to report multiple taxonomy codes to ForwardHealth as long as the codes accurately describe the provider type and specialty for the provider's certification with Wisconsin Medicaid. When doing business with ForwardHealth, providers may use any one of the reported codes. Providers who report multiple taxonomy codes will be required to designate one of the codes as the primary taxonomy code; this primary code will be used by ForwardHealth for identification purposes.

ForwardHealth uses taxonomy codes to match National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) to the correct provider files; submitting new taxonomy codes will not change a provider's certification or affect reimbursement rates.

Providers who wish to change their taxonomy code or add additional taxonomy codes may do so via the demographic maintenance link found in the secure Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal at *www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/*. Providers who currently do not have a ForwardHealth Portal account are encouraged to request a personal identification number (PIN) to access this feature and many others that are available on the secure areas of the Portal.

Alternatively, providers may use the revised Provider Change of Address or Status form, F-01181 (09/11), to report new taxonomy codes. The Provider Change of Address or Status form may be accessed from the Forms page of the Provider area of the Portal.

Taxonomy code changes reported through demographic maintenance between September 19, 2011, and October 15, 2011, will be used in processing claims received on and after October 16, 2011. Beginning October 16, 2011, most taxonomy code changes entered through demographic maintenance will take effect in real time; providers may use the new codes immediately on claim submissions. Providers who submit new taxonomy codes using the Provider Change of Address or Status form will need to check demographic maintenance to verify ForwardHealth has

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received and added the new taxonomy codes prior to using them on transactions.

Providers who report new taxonomy codes through the Portal or the Provider Change of Address or Status form should be aware that claims processing may be affected. ForwardHealth claim processing uses taxonomy codes to uniquely identify Medicaid provider certifications that share an NPI. Claim submissions for which billing or rendering provider certification cannot be uniquely identified may be denied or delayed in processing.

Non-health care providers who do not use NPIs, such as specialized medical vehicle providers, blood banks, and personal care-only providers, are not impacted by this change of policy.

Background on HIPAA ASC X12 Version 5010 and National Council for Prescription Drug Programs Version D.0

Effective January 1, 2012, changes to HIPAA and National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) standards will impact electronic, paper, Provider Electronic Solutions, and ForwardHealth Portal transactions exchanged with ForwardHealth. All covered entities (e.g., health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers) will be required to begin using the new HIPAA ASC X12 version 5010 and NCPDP version D.0 standards.

Refer to the HIPAA ASC X12 Version 5010 and NCPDP Version D.0 Implementation Page on the Portal at *www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/* for more information.