

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Family Planning Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Hospitals, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Clarification of Sterilization Policy Regarding Retroactive Eligibility

This *ForwardHealth Update* clarifies sterilization policy when the member is granted retroactive eligibility.

Sterilization Policy When the Member is Granted Retroactive Eligibility

If the provider performed a sterilization procedure during a period of retroactive eligibility before the member was enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus and the provider has met all requirements under federal regulations, including completing a required Consent for Sterilization form, F-1164 (10/08), at least 30 days prior to the procedure, then a claim for the sterilization may be submitted to ForwardHealth for reimbursement. Retroactive eligibility extends three months prior to the month of application. If the provider previously has billed the applicant directly, the provider shall, upon receipt of Medicaid payment, reimburse the member or other entity who made payment on the member's behalf in the amount of the prior payment made.

If one or more of the federal requirements has not been met, including completing the consent form at least 30 days prior to the procedure, the sterilization service is considered not covered, and the provider may not receive ForwardHealth reimbursement; however, the provider may bill the member. This policy applies to the sterilization procedure and any services related to the procedure.

To help facilitate reimbursement for sterilizations, it is recommended that providers use the Consent for

Sterilization form before *all* sterilizations in the event that the applicant obtains Medicaid retroactive eligibility.

Sterilization Policy for Currently Enrolled Members

As a reminder, a member currently enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus on the date of a sterilization procedure must have given written consent on the Consent for Sterilization form at least 30 days prior to the sterilization procedure. If the form is not completed, is completed incorrectly, or does not meet other criteria, such as the 30-day requirement, the sterilization is considered non-reimbursable, and the provider may not bill the member.

For complete sterilization information, refer to the Physician service area of the Online Handbook.

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. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Managed care organizations are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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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