

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Nursing Homes, Hospital Providers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Rehabilitation Agencies, Speech and Hearing Clinics, Speech-Language Pathologists, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

New Service Modifier for Speech and Language Pathology Services

This *ForwardHealth Update* announces a new service modifier to be used in conjunction with Medicaid-allowable procedure codes for speech and language pathology services.

Effective for dates of service on and after May 1, 2012, all prior authorization (PA) requests, PA amendments, claims, and claim adjustments for speech and language pathology (SLP) services rendered by an SLP provider (a licensed speech and language pathologist, an SLP provider assistant, or an SLP student) *must* include the new service modifier GN (Services delivered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care) in conjunction with an allowable SLP procedure code.

Prior authorization requests and PA amendments for SLP services to be rendered by an SLP provider that do not include the modifier GN will be returned. Claims and claim adjustments for SLP services rendered by an SLP provider that do not include the modifier GN will be denied. Speech and language pathology services that have already been prior authorized without the GN modifier do not need to be amended but must be billed — whether on a claim or claim adjustment — with the GN modifier.

Scope of Practice

Providers are reminded that any services they provide must be within the scope of practice of their profession and must comply with the regulations as specified by the certifying

agency of their profession, as well as any additional regulatory limits of their license and certification.

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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