

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Nurse Practitioners, Optometrists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Podiatrists, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Change to Reimbursement for Consultation Services

Effective for dates of service on and after May 1, 2012, ForwardHealth will reduce reimbursement to professional services providers for consultation services.

Reimbursement Reduction

In the 2011-2013 biennial budget, the Department of Health Services (DHS) was directed to identify and implement health care efficiencies related to the provision of Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus services. In response, effective for dates of service on and after May 1, 2012, ForwardHealth will reduce reimbursement to professional services providers for consultation services in an effort to better align reimbursement between primary and specialty care. New maximum allowable fees for consultation services will equal 80 percent of current maximum allowable fees.

Consultation services are identified by *Current Procedural Terminology* procedure codes 99241-99245 (for office or other outpatient consultations) and 99251-99255 (for inpatient consultations).

The following professional services providers are currently allowable provider types for consultation services and, thus, are subject to this reimbursement reduction:

- Nurse practitioners.
- Optometrists.
- Physician assistants.
- Physicians.
- Podiatrists.

The reimbursement reduction applies to consultation services provided to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members.

Coverage Policies and Claim Submission Instructions Remain Unchanged

All ForwardHealth policies regarding coverage of consultations and related claim submission instructions remain unchanged.

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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