

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid  
**To:** All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Affordable Care Act Risk Level Classifications by Provider Type

Beginning March 8, 2013, ForwardHealth will implement new risk level classifications, as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In 2010, the federal government signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as federal health care reform, which is extensive legislation that affects several aspects of Wisconsin healthcare. ForwardHealth has begun working toward ACA compliance by implementing some new provider requirements and provider screening processes.

Providers should refer to the Provider Enrollment Information home page on the Portal for all published Medicaid provider enrollment information regarding changes to Medicaid provider enrollment due to the ACA. All future *ForwardHealth Updates* regarding the ACA will also be accessible via this resource.

In accordance with ACA, ForwardHealth will be implementing new risk level classifications assigned by provider type. The risk level classifications have been established by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and ForwardHealth has adopted the same guidelines. In cases where provider types are not classified by CMS, ForwardHealth has established the risk level classification.

Providers should note that the provider type is how a provider is enrolled with Wisconsin Medicaid. Provider types are broken down into subtypes, referred to as provider specialty. The specialty refers to services the provider is

licensed or qualified to provide. For example, a registered nurse may enroll as a nurse practitioner (provider type) with Wisconsin Medicaid and provide services to members as a midwife (provider specialty).

### Risk Level Classifications

Beginning March 8, 2013, all Wisconsin Medicaid-enrolled providers will be assigned one of three risk levels, based on provider type. The three levels of risk are:

- Limited.
- Moderate.
- High.

ForwardHealth will perform certain screening activities for each provider during enrollment and again at revalidation, corresponding to the appropriate risk level. For example, moderate and high risk providers must have onsite visits before and after enrollment to be compliant with the CMS final rule §455.432. ForwardHealth will automatically screen all enrolling and enrolled providers monthly using federal databases. Additionally, ForwardHealth will verify providers' licenses are in accordance with applicable state laws and that there are no current limitations on the license. In the future, high risk providers will need to submit fingerprints and will have criminal background checks conducted prior to enrollment. The effective date for the fingerprint and criminal background check requirements has not yet been determined. Providers should look for a future *Update* regarding these requirements.

To be compliant with the CMS final rule §455.450.e.(2), ForwardHealth will adjust a provider's risk level from "limited" or "moderate" to "high" when either of the following situations occurs:

- ForwardHealth imposes a payment suspension on a provider based on a credible allegation of fraud or if the provider has been excluded by Medicare or another State's Medicaid program within the last 10 years.
- If in the previous six months, ForwardHealth or CMS lifted a temporary moratorium for a particular provider type and a provider that was prevented from enrolling, due to the moratorium, applies for enrollment at any time within six months from the date the moratorium was lifted.

Refer to Attachment 1 of this *Update* for a chart detailing the screening activities for each risk level. Refer to Attachment 2 for a chart of risk level classification by provider type and specialty.

If a provider has already been screened by Medicare or another state's Medicaid program or Children's Health Insurance Program in the last 12 months, ForwardHealth will not conduct additional screenings.

Providers should note that the risk level classification they are assigned may be subject to change at any time.

### ***Revalidation***

Providers who were enrolled at a high risk level will be revalidated at a moderate risk level, assuming there were no other circumstances that would constitute the high risk level. For example, a home health agency that was enrolled at a high risk level classification will be reassigned a moderate risk level during revalidation. At the time of revalidation, they will then be screened using the moderate screening activities.

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 AIDS/HIV Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are 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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Information in this *Update* was incorporated into the Provider Enrollment Information home page on March 8, 2013.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Risk Level Screening Activities

Risk Level	Screening Activities
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fingerprinting/ criminal background check (Not yet implemented, effective date yet to be determined).</li> <li>• Onsite visits before and after enrollment.</li> <li>• Verification of provider-specific requirements, including the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ License verification.</li> <li>○ Office of the Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE)/ Social Security Administration (SSA)/ Excluded Provider List System (EPLS) screen.</li> <li>○ Owner/controlling interest information verification.</li> <li>○ Medicare Exclusion Database screen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onsite visits before and after enrollment.</li> <li>• Verification of provider-specific requirements, including the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ License verification.</li> <li>○ Office of the Inspector General LEIE/SSA/EPLS screen.</li> <li>○ Owner/controlling interest information verification.</li> <li>○ Medicare Exclusion Database screen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification of provider-specific requirements, including the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ License verification.</li> <li>○ Office of the Inspector General LEIE/SSA/EPLS screen.</li> <li>○ Owner/controlling interest information verification.</li> <li>○ Medicare Exclusion Database screen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Risk Level Assignment by Provider Type and Specialty

Provider Type Description	Enrollment Risk Level	Revalidation Risk Level
Adult Mental Health Day Treatment Providers	Limited	Limited
Ambulance Providers	Moderate	Moderate
Ambulatory Surgery Centers	Limited	Limited
Anesthesiologist Assistants	Limited	Limited
Audiologist	Limited	Limited
Blood Banks	Limited	Limited
Case Management Providers	Limited	Limited
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists	Limited	Limited
Chiropractors	Limited	Limited
Community Recovery Services Providers	Limited	Limited
Dental Hygienists	Limited	Limited
Dentists	Limited	Limited
End-Stage Renal Disease Providers	Limited	Limited
Family Planning Clinics	Moderate	Moderate
Federally Qualified Health Centers	Limited	Limited
HealthCheck Providers	Limited	Limited
Hearing Instrument Specialists	Limited	Limited
Home Health Agencies	High	Moderate
Hospice Providers	Moderate	Moderate
Hospital Providers	Limited	Limited
Independent Lab	Moderate	Moderate
Individual Medical Supply Providers	Limited	Limited
Medical Equipment Vendors	High	Moderate
Mental Health / Substance Abuse, Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outpatient Mental Health Services</li> <li>• Outpatient Substance Abuse Services</li> <li>• Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers</li> <li>• Child/Adolescent Day Treatment Providers</li> <li>• Crisis Intervention Providers</li> <li>• Community Support Program Providers</li> <li>• Comprehensive Community Service Providers</li> </ul>	Limited	Limited

<b>Provider Type Description</b>	<b>Enrollment Risk Level</b>	<b>Revalidation Risk Level</b>
Mental Health / Substance Abuse, Individual Practitioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychologists</li> <li>• Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers with Psychiatric Specialty</li> <li>• Licensed Psychotherapists</li> <li>• Licensed Psychotherapists with Substance Abuse Certification</li> <li>• Certified Psychotherapists</li> <li>• Certified Psychotherapists with Substance Abuse Certifications</li> <li>• Substance Abuse Counselors</li> <li>• Qualified Treatment Trainees</li> </ul>	Limited	Limited
Narcotic Treatment Services Providers	Limited	Limited
Nurses in Independent Practice	Limited	Limited
Nursing Homes	Limited	Limited
Nurse Midwives	Limited	Limited
Nurse Practitioners	Limited	Limited
Occupational Therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational Therapists</li> <li>• Occupational Therapist Assistants</li> </ul>	Limited	Limited
Opticians	Limited	Limited
Optometrists	Limited	Limited
Oral Surgeons	Limited	Limited
Personal Care Agencies	High	Moderate
Pharmacies	Limited	Limited
Physical Therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Therapists</li> <li>• Physical Therapy Groups</li> <li>• Physical Therapist Assistants</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate
Physician Assistants	Limited	Limited
Physician and Physician Clinics	Limited	Limited
Podiatrists	Limited	Limited
Portable X-Ray Providers	Moderate	Moderate
Prenatal Care Coordination/Child Care Coordination Providers	High	Moderate
Rehabilitation Agencies	Limited	Limited
Rural Health Clinics	Limited	Limited
School-Based Services Providers	Limited	Limited
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children Agencies (WIC)	Limited	Limited
Specialized Medical Vehicle Providers	High	Moderate
Speech and Hearing Clinics	Limited	Limited
Speech-Language Pathologists	Limited	Limited
Substance Abuse Day Treatment Providers	Limited	Limited