

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, Medicaid

To: Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physicians, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Affordable Care Act Primary Care Rate Increase Portal Attestation

This *ForwardHealth Update* contains information regarding a primary care rate increase provided for under CFR 447.400(a), as instituted by the Affordable Care Act.

Affordable Care Act Primary Care Rate Increase

In 2010, the federal government signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as federal health care reform, which affects several aspects of Wisconsin health care.

Effective January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014, certain providers who are identified as primary care practitioners may be eligible to receive a temporary rate increase for certain evaluation and management (E&M) and vaccine administration services. This increase is provided for under CFR 447.400(a), as instituted by the ACA. The federally funded, temporary rate increase is authorized only for two calendar years, after which the rate will return to its previous level, assuming there is no additional federal action. Eligible services are those rendered by attested physicians on dates of service between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2014.

This is the first of two publications related to the ACA Primary Care Rate Increase and contains information on which providers are eligible to receive the rate increase and how those providers can attest to their eligibility. Future

publications will be released later in 2013 with details on when and how the rate increase will be calculated and paid. The increased payment for these services will not be paid until late 2013.

Factors Determining When Rate Increase is Applied

The rate increase will be applied when eligible providers render eligible services to eligible members. Broad details on eligibility are described below. More detailed information will be provided in future *Updates*.

Provider Eligibility

Eligible providers for the rate increase are those who primarily practice as primary care providers (family practice, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine — or a subspecialty of any of these specialties) and are either:

- A physician who is board certified by one of the following:
 - ✓ American Board of Medical Specialties.
 - ✓ American Osteopathic Association.
 - ✓ American Board of Physician Specialties member board.

Or

- A physician who submits claims with at least 60 percent of the procedure codes coming from the code group identified by the rule.

Service Eligibility

The services identified by the rule as eligible are E&M services (procedure codes 99201-99499) and vaccine administration services. Services provided in federally-qualified health centers or rural health clinics are not eligible under the rule.

Member Eligibility

The majority of ForwardHealth members are enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, or the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. Services provided to these members are eligible for the rate increase. There are some members enrolled in state-only and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)-only funded programs. Services provided to these members are not eligible for the rate increase.

Eligibility for Advanced Practice Providers (Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives)

Advanced practice providers (APPs) who are physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or nurse midwives are also eligible for the primary care rate increase if they are supervised by an eligible physician. To be considered eligible in this case, APPs must be supervised by a physician who qualifies for the rate increase according to the provider eligibility criteria in this *ForwardHealth Update* and who has attested to this eligibility. Advanced practice providers will need to provide identification information for their supervisors; ForwardHealth will check supervisor attestation in order to determine APP eligibility. Advanced practice providers who believe they are eligible for the rate increase should encourage their supervising providers to complete the attestation before they complete it in order to avoid a denial of the attestation.

Under the guidelines set out by the ACA Primary Care Rate Increase final rule and Wisconsin Administrative Code, the supervising physician is required to have direct involvement in the services provided by the APP and to take responsibility for the services provided under his or her supervision in order for the APP to be eligible for the rate

increase. Eligible APPs may still use their own National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) when submitting claims.

Criteria Provided in Attestation

To receive the primary care rate increase, providers are required to attest to their qualifications online via the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/. To access the Primary Care Rate Attestation, click the Primary Care Rate Attestation link in the Providers box on the left side of the Portal home page.

The provider will be asked to attest that he or she fulfills the criteria for the primary care rate increase and will then be asked for the following provider information:

- National Provider Identifier.
- Full name.
- Birthdate.
- Start date of eligibility.
- End date of eligibility, if applicable.
- Board certification status.
- Board of certification, if applicable.
- Certification expiration date, if applicable.
- Advanced practice provider status.
- Supervisor's NPI, if applicable.
- Supervisor's board certification status, if applicable.
- Supervisor's certifying board, if applicable.

Once the provider completes the attestation, ForwardHealth will check the submitted information against the existing Medicaid provider enrollment file. Providers will be notified in writing within 10 business days of submitting the attestation regarding the success of the attestation.

Beginning April 12, 2013, through December 31, 2013, providers may attest that they are eligible for services provided on and after January 1, 2013. However, beginning January 1, 2014, providers can attest that they are eligible only for services provided as of the date of their attestation.

If a provider experiences a change in practice or specialty focus that would either change the nature of his or her

eligibility for the primary care rate increase or disqualify him or her from the primary care rate increase, that provider must notify ForwardHealth of this change. Examples of this include a lapse in board certification, change in claims volume, or, for APPs, a change in supervising physician.

Provider attestations will be effective through December 31, 2014, unless providers notify ForwardHealth that they are no longer eligible.

Providers who participate in large health systems and wish to delegate attestation to administrative staff may do so as long as the health system informs the provider that attestation has been submitted on his or her behalf. The health system must maintain a signed internal document from the provider stating that he or she is eligible and wishes to attest. These records may be requested if the provider's billing is audited.

Attestation Information for State-Contracted HMO Network Providers

Providers or designated clinic administrative staff should attest directly to ForwardHealth in order to receive the rate increase. Providers should not submit attestation directly to HMOs; HMOs are not responsible for maintaining separate attestations or submitting attestations to ForwardHealth.

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/.

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