

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

Coverage Policy for Low-Dose Computed Tomography Scans

ForwardHealth covers low-dose computed tomography scans for lung cancer screening when certain criteria, as outlined in this *ForwardHealth Update*, are met.

Background

In 2013, the United States Preventive Services Task Force updated recommendations related to lung cancer screening to include coverage for low-dose computed tomography (CT) scans for individuals aged 55 to 80 years old who have a 30-pack-a-year smoking history and either currently smoke or have quit smoking within the past 15 years.

It is further recommended that low-dose CT scans be discontinued in the following situations:

- A person has not smoked for 15 years.
- A person develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has since added Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure code S8032 (Low-dose computed tomography for lung cancer screening) to distinguish low-dose CT scans from regular intensity chest CT scans used for other diagnostic purposes.

ForwardHealth Coverage of Low-Dose Computed Tomography Scans

Effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2014, ForwardHealth covers low-dose CT scans (identified by

HCPCS procedure code S8032) for lung cancer screening without prior authorization (PA) for Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus-enrolled members who are at high risk for lung cancer and meet all of the following criteria:

- Are aged 55 to 80.
- Have a 30-pack-a-year smoking history, as indicated by the appropriate *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) diagnosis code.
- Are either current smokers or have quit smoking within the past 15 years, as indicated by the appropriate ICD diagnosis code.
- Have no signs or symptoms suggestive of underlying cancer.

Since HCPCS procedure code S8032 is specific to a screening service, as of October 1, 2014, ForwardHealth no longer reimburses providers for claims for low-dose CT lung cancer screening when billed under *Current Procedural Terminology* procedure code 71250 (Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material). ForwardHealth requires PA for coverage of all other CT scans, including those that would be performed as a follow up to the initial low-dose CT screening, unless the provider has an exemption under ForwardHealth's advanced imaging PA exemption program. For more information about PA requirements and exemption program information for advanced imaging services, refer to the Advanced Imaging Services chapter of the Prior Authorization section of the Radiology service area of the ForwardHealth 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 AIDS 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/.

P-1250