

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

Clarification of Copayment Exemptions for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid Members

This *ForwardHealth Update* clarifies policy previously published in the December 2013 *Update* (2013-70), titled “Copayment No Longer Required for Specified Preventive Services and Adult Vaccines.” In addition to the copayment exemptions published in *Update* 2013-70 and in addition to other existing copayment exemptions, Medicaid-eligible children younger than age 18 who are blind or disabled and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or SSI-related Medicaid are exempt from copayments.

Copayment Exemptions for BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid

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According to DHS 104.01(12)(a), Wis. Admin. Code, and 42 CFR s. 447.56, providers are prohibited from collecting any copayments from the following BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members:

- Children in a mandatory coverage category. In Wisconsin, this includes the following:
 - ✓ Children in foster care, regardless of age.
 - ✓ Children in adoption assistance, regardless of age.

- ✓ Children younger than age 1 with household income up to 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- ✓ Children ages 1 through 5 with household income up to 185 percent of the FPL.
- ✓ Children ages 6 through 18 with household income at or below 133 percent of the FPL.
- Children in the Katie Beckett program, regardless of age.
- Children who are American Indians or Alaskan Natives and whose BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid coverage is funded through the state's Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). (*Note:* Wisconsin's Enrollment Verification System [EVS] will identify these children as exempt from copayment).
- American Indians or Alaskan Natives, regardless of age or income level, who are receiving or have ever received items and services either directly from an Indian health care provider or through referral under contracted health services. (*Note:* Until further notice, BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid will apply this exemption policy for *all* services received by American Indians or Alaskan Natives regardless of whether or not a tribal health care provider or a contracted entity provides the service; therefore, providers may not collect copayment from any individual identified in the EVS as an American Indian or Alaskan Native.)
- Terminally ill individuals receiving hospice care.
- Nursing home residents.

- Members enrolled in Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid.
- Individuals eligible through Express Enrollment.
- Children younger than age 18 who are in an SSI or SSI-related eligibility group.

As a reminder, the following services do not require copayments from any member enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid:

- Care coordination services (prenatal and child care coordination).
- Community Recovery Services.
- Community support program services.
- Comprehensive community services.
- Crisis intervention services.
- Emergency services.
- Family planning services and supplies, including sterilizations.
- HealthCheck services.
- Home care services (home health, personal care, and private duty nursing services).
- Hospice care services.
- Immunizations, including approved vaccines recommended to adults by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- Independent laboratory services.
- Injections.
- Pregnancy-related services.
- Preventive services with an A or B rating from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.
- School-Based Services.
- Substance abuse day treatment services.
- Surgical assistance.
- Targeted case management services.

Note: Providers may not impose cost sharing for healthcare-acquired conditions or other provider-preventable services as defined in federal law under 42 CFR s. 447.26(b).

Additional Information

Refer to service-specific areas of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook for information on copayment amounts, limitations, and other requirements.

Refunding and Collecting Copayments

As a reminder, for determining the proper deduction of copayments, providers should review their Remittance Advice (RA). Providers may access RAs in a text (TXT) format or from a comma-separated value (CSV) file via the secure Provider area of the ForwardHealth Portal, located at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

For more information regarding refunding and collecting payments, refer to the Refunding/Collecting topic (topic #237) in the Copayment chapter of the Reimbursement section of the Online Handbook.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *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/.

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