

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Nursing Homes, Hospital Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Institutionalized Childless Adults Eligible for Long Term Nursing Home Care

This *ForwardHealth Update* announces that institutionalized childless adults are now eligible for long term nursing home care under BadgerCare Plus.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued guidance stating that institutionalized childless adults (adults ages 19-64 without dependent children living in the household) who are eligible for BadgerCare Plus under Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) eligibility rules as of April 1, 2014, may be eligible to receive coverage for long term nursing home care. A BadgerCare Plus member may be eligible for long term care (LTC) services without applying or being eligible for Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid.

In order for a nursing home to be properly reimbursed for LTC services, the childless adult is required to be disenrolled from his or her HMO after a nursing home stay of 30 or more consecutive days. To be disenrolled, the childless adult's HMO notifies the enrollment specialist, who may exempt the childless adult from HMO coverage.

Once the childless adult is disenrolled from the HMO, the nursing home provider should submit claims for the childless adult to ForwardHealth as fee-for-service claims. To continue receiving reimbursement from BadgerCare Plus for LTC services, the member is required to meet all BadgerCare Plus eligibility criteria.

Note: The HMO is responsible for coverage of LTC services for all dates of service (DOS) in which the childless adult was enrolled in the HMO.

Coverage Policy for Childless Adults Eligible for Long Term Care Coverage

While they are eligible for LTC services under BadgerCare Plus, childless adults are:

- Not subject to nursing home patient liability; however, they may be subject to regular copayments for services if they have budgetable income.
- Exempt from HMO enrollment, unless they are enrolled in a Family Care managed care organization (MCO). In this case, they can continue to be enrolled in the Family Care MCO.
- Subject to a functional screen.
- Not subject to estate recovery, unless they are 55 years of age or older.
- Not subject to having a lien put on their homes.
- Not subject to an asset limit; however, individuals are subject to all divestment and related policies in order to qualify for receipt of LTC services. Institutionalized childless adults who divest are not eligible for LTC services during the divestment penalty period, though they remain eligible for BadgerCare Plus card services.

These special conditions only apply to institutionalized members while they remain eligible for BadgerCare Plus as a childless adult. For example, once a member begins receiving Medicare, he or she is no longer eligible for

BadgerCare Plus as a childless adult. Additionally, once a member becomes eligible for LTC under Medicaid rules, he or she is subject to regular estate recovery rules and may have to pay the monthly nursing home patient liability.

Upon Discharge from a Nursing Home

As a reminder, a member's exemption from an HMO will automatically be reviewed every six months, per the current process. Upon discharge from a nursing home, as the exemption no longer applies, the member will be re-enrolled in a HMO, as appropriate.

Nursing Home Level of Care Determinations Reminder

Providers are reminded that a Medicaid fee-for-service nursing home claim will not be reimbursed if the member does not have a nursing home level of care "active" in his or her eligibility file for the DOS billed. Providers may refer to the Nursing Home Care Determination topic (topic #13497) of the Enrollment for Nursing Home Services chapter of the Member Information section of the Nursing Home service area of the Online Handbook for additional information.

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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