

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Hospital Providers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Rehabilitation Agencies, School-Based Services Providers, Speech and Hearing Clinics, Speech-Language Pathologists, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Clarification of Therapy Services and Documentation Requirements for School-Aged Members

ForwardHealth allows coverage of therapy services provided in both the community and the school for school-aged members. This *ForwardHealth Update* clarifies coverage and prior authorization (PA) documentation requirements for these therapy services.

Therapy Services for School-Aged Members

ForwardHealth covers community-based occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and speech and language pathology (SLP) therapy services provided to school-aged members, ages 3 up to 21, when the primary objective for treatment is to support the member's home- and community-based needs.

ForwardHealth does not require a school-aged member to be referred to or access therapy services through the school-based services (SBS) benefit prior to accessing OT, PT, or SLP services in the community. The SBS benefit allows school districts and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) to receive federal funds for medically related special education and associated services. Members may require services in both community-based and school-based settings out of medical necessity. Participation in OT, PT, and SLP services in one setting is not intended to replace services in the other setting.

Changes to PA Documentation Requirements

Initial PA Request for an Episode of Therapy Services

ForwardHealth has simplified the documentation required to be submitted with the initial PA request for an episode of therapy services for school-aged members. Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2018, ForwardHealth will **no** longer require submitted documentation of coordination of care or the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for the initial PA of an episode of therapy services. Elements 16 and 17 of the Prior Authorization/Therapy Attachment (PA/TA), F-11008 (08/2017), will no longer need to be completed when requesting these services. An episode of therapy services lasts until the member is discharged from the current plan of care.

Elements 16 and 17 of the Prior Authorization/Therapy Attachment Instructions, F-11008A (01/2018), have been revised to reflect these changes. The revised instructions are available on the Forms page of the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/content/provider/forms/index.htm.spage#.

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 (MCO). MCOs 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 Medicaid Services, the 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, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

P-1250