

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

Clarification of Tobacco Cessation Copayment Policy

Under the Tobacco Cessation Benefit, ForwardHealth covers tobacco cessation counseling and pharmacotherapy services, including legend drugs and over-the-counter (OTC) products, with a written prescription from a prescriber. This *ForwardHealth Update* clarifies that ForwardHealth does not require prior authorization (PA) for tobacco cessation counseling services or tobacco cessation products within approved diagnoses, which are described in this *Update*. Additionally, BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid do not require a copayment for tobacco cessation services.

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in disease prevention and evidence-based medicine, “Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States.” The USPSTF recommends that providers ask all adults about tobacco use, advise them to stop using tobacco, and provide tobacco cessation counseling services. Additionally, the USPSTF recommends that providers provide Food and Drug Administration-approved pharmacotherapy services to non-pregnant adults. More information about USPSTF recommendations is available on the USPSTF website at www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/.

Tobacco Cessation Benefit Policy

Under the Tobacco Cessation Benefit, BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and SeniorCare cover legend drugs for tobacco

cessation. BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid also cover OTC nicotine gum, patches, and lozenges. For more information about legend drugs, providers may refer to the Legend Drugs topic (topic #1934) in the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Pharmacy service area of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook.

As a reminder, a written prescription from a Medicaid-enrolled prescriber is required for legend and OTC tobacco cessation products. Prescribers are required to indicate the appropriate diagnosis on the prescription. PA is required for uses outside the approved diagnosis. Providers may refer to the Diagnosis Restricted Drugs data table on the Pharmacy Resources page of the Providers area of the ForwardHealth Portal for the most current list of allowable diagnosis codes.

To clarify, tobacco cessation services, as preventive services with an A or B rating from the USPSTF, do not require copayments from any member enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid. SeniorCare members are not exempt from copayment for tobacco cessation services. For more information about copayment exemptions, providers may refer to the Exemptions topic (topic #231) in the Copayment chapter of the Reimbursement section of the Online Handbook.

For more information about tobacco cessation policy, providers may refer to the following Online Handbook topics:

- Tobacco Cessation Drugs topic (topic #5657) in the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Pharmacy service area
- Tobacco Cessation Drugs and Services topic (topic #494) in the Evaluation and Management chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Physician service area
- Tobacco Cessation Drugs and Services topic (topic #6177) in the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Outpatient Mental Health service area
- Tobacco Cessation Drugs and Services topic (topic #5777) in the Covered Services and Requirements chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Outpatient Substance Abuse service area

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy for members enrolled in Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus who receive pharmacy services on a fee-for-service basis only. Pharmacy services for Medicaid members enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the Family Care Partnership program are provided by the member's managed care organization.

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/.

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