

# *ForwardHealth* **UPDATE**

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## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FORWARDHEALTH RESIDENTIAL FACILITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT BENEFIT WILL BE DELAYED**

On October 31, 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) received approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for the BadgerCare Reform 1115 demonstration waiver, which includes approval to provide residential facility substance use disorder (SUD) treatment benefits through the Medicaid program. This benefit is intended to provide coverage of services in a residential setting including assessment, individual or group counseling, individual and/or family psychoeducation, medical services and medication management, and recovery support services. This benefit is available to all BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members with substance use disorders who require a residential level of care.

Last November, DHS announced that the new ForwardHealth residential facility SUD treatment benefit would be available beginning

## **AFFECTED PROGRAMS**

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

## **TO**

Residential Facility Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

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The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with the policies included in the federally approved waiver for the BadgerCare Reform 1115 Demonstration Waiver, per s. 20.940(3)(c)(2).

February 1, 2020. Based on extensive feedback received, DHS will delay implementation to ensure a successful implementation.

DHS will be conducting more research and stakeholder outreach to develop a benefit and reimbursement structure that meets members' needs and ensures a strong system of care. Over the coming weeks, DHS will be soliciting further feedback from stakeholder groups including counties, provider associations, and community partners to collaborate on how to best implement this new benefit.

DHS recognizes that access to these services is critically important and is committed to working with members, providers, and counties to support and enhance behavioral health services. DHS will be hosting an online listening session on January 29, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to provide more information and answer questions. Providers can use the following livestream link to join: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14059632/events/8965046>. You can submit questions and feedback before, during, and after the webinar by sending emails to [DHSWisconsin1115CLAWaiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSWisconsin1115CLAWaiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

If you would like to receive email updates from DHS on the residential facility SUD treatment benefit, sign up for the [Medicaid Behavior Health Services](#) email list. Information and resources will also be published on the DHS website at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/behavioral-health.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/behavioral-health.htm).

All current benefits related to SUDs remain available.

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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 within 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 within DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).