

ForwardHealth UPDATE

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COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL CONSULTATIONS FOR STUDENTS POLICY EXPANDS TO INCLUDE PARENTS

In response to state legislation 2019 Wisconsin Act 88, this ForwardHealth Update announces expanded coverage of mental health clinical consultations for students under 21 years of age to include consultations with “a parent of the student.” This will be an addition to existing coverage policy, which was previously described in the July 2018 Update (2018-25), titled [“New Outpatient Mental Health Policy Adding Coverage of Mental Health Clinical Consultations for Students.”](#)

Current Coverage Policy for a Mental Health Clinical Consultation

A mental health clinical consultation is a **communication from a mental health provider to coordinate services for a BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid beneficiary who is a student under 21 years of age with an established mental health diagnosis. The intent of the mental**

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers With Psychiatric Specialty, Community Health Centers, Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers, Master’s-Level Psychotherapists, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinics, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Qualified Treatment Trainees, Substance Abuse Counselors, Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 49.45(29y)(a)2m.

health consultation is to inform individuals working with the member of the following:

- The member's symptoms
- Strategies for effective engagement, care, and intervention
- Treatment expectations for the member

Mental health clinical consultations are reimbursable between an enrolled mental health provider who is currently allowed to render outpatient mental health services and any of the following:

- Educator teams
- Individual educators
- School staff

Mental health clinical consultations may be provided via phone or face-to-face interviews. The content and duration of the mental health clinical consultation(s) must be documented. Mental health clinical consultations follow the same [documentation requirements](#) as other outpatient mental health services.

Expanded Coverage of a Mental Health Clinical Consultation

Update 2018-25 established reimbursement for enrolled mental health providers to provide mental health clinical consultations to school staff and educators on behalf of students under the age of 21 who are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid. This Update expands existing policy to allow reimbursement for mental health clinical consultations to include the member's parent(s).

Effective immediately, mental health clinical consultations, including consultations with "a parent of the student," are reimbursable for students under 21 years of age. Mental health clinical consultations provided by enrolled mental health providers to educator teams, individual educators, and school staff remain covered services.

“Effective immediately, mental health clinical consultations, including consultations with “a parent of the student,” are reimbursable for students under 21 years of age.

Per Wis. Stat. § 49.45(29y)(a)2m, a parent is defined as any of the following:

- A parent
- A foster parent
- A guardian
- A relative, other than a parent, who lives with the student

QUICK LINKS

- [Covered Outpatient Mental Health Services](#) topic (#6037)
- [Noncovered Services](#) topic (#6117)
- [Procedure Codes](#) topic (#6123)

As a reminder, the intent of the mental health consultation is to inform individuals working with the member or the parent(s) of the member of the following:

- The member's symptoms
- Strategies for effective engagement, care, and intervention
- Treatment expectations for the member

Informed Consent Reminder

Per Wis. Stat. § [146.81\(2\)](#), mental health providers are expected to obtain informed consent from the member, the member's parent or legal custodian, or the member's legal representative, as appropriate, before conducting the mental health clinical consultations. Providers should consult with their own legal counsel if they have questions about informed consent requirements.

Retention of Documentation Reminder

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Information about those requirements are explained in the following ForwardHealth Online Handbook topics:

- [Financial Records](#) (#201)
- [Medical Records](#) (#202)
- [Preparation and Maintenance of Records](#) (#203)
- [Record Retention](#) (#204)
- [Availability of Records to Authorized Personnel](#) (#1640)

Providers are required to produce and/or submit the documentation to ForwardHealth upon request. ForwardHealth may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet this requirement. Refusal to produce documentation may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, termination from the Medicaid program.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This is a service available for all eligible members, regardless of enrollment in an HMO. BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Provider Services,
800-947-9627

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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/.