

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

Wisconsin serving you

Your First Source of ForwardHealth Policy and Program Information



NEW RISK LEVEL CLASSIFICATION AND SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSING HOME PROVIDERS

To assure member health and safety, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires ForwardHealth to strengthen oversight of nursing home providers by retroactively implementing Medicaid enrollment changes. This requirement became effective on January 1, 2023.

ForwardHealth must raise nursing home provider enrollment risk level classifications and make sure providers are properly screened. Wisconsin Medicaid will:

- Increase enrollment risk levels for nursing home providers.
- Enhance screenings for nursing home providers.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will notify impacted providers by mail.

Nursing home providers must comply with these changes to participate in Wisconsin Medicaid.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Nursing Homes, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 42 C.F.R. Parts 405, 410, 411, 414, 415, 423, 424, 425, and 455.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Increased Risk Levels for Nursing Home Providers

In accordance with [42 C.F.R. § 424.518](#), ForwardHealth must raise the Medicaid enrollment risk level classifications for nursing home providers to:

- High risk for initial enrollment, re-enrollment, and change of ownership.
- Moderate risk for revalidation.

Impacted nursing home providers will receive a letter from DHS OIG.

Providers must revalidate by the deadline in their ForwardHealth revalidation letter. If a provider does not meet the revalidation deadline, they will be required to re-enroll as high risk. Refer to the [Medicaid Provider Revalidation](#) page of the ForwardHealth Portal for more information.

Enhanced Screening Requirements for Nursing Home Providers With Increased Risk Levels

All providers, including nursing home providers, must comply with federal and state screening requirements. Screening requirements are based on risk levels assigned during the Medicaid enrollment process and include:

- Onsite visits before and after enrollment with Wisconsin Medicaid for moderate- and high-risk providers.
- Submission of fingerprints and criminal background checks for all required individuals of high-risk providers.

Onsite Visit Requirements

Under [42 C.F.R. § 455.432](#), providers identified as moderate and high risk must allow CMS and DHS to conduct onsite visits to:

- Verify accuracy of provider information.
- Ensure providers meet federal and state enrollment requirements under the ForwardHealth Online Handbook Enrollment Requirements Due to the Affordable Care Act topic [#14137](#).

CMS and DHS may conduct scheduled and unannounced onsite visits at any provider location.

Fingerprint and Criminal Background Check Requirements

In accordance with [42 C.F.R. § 455.434](#), ForwardHealth requires fingerprints and criminal background checks from all appropriate individuals of high-risk Medicaid providers. This includes those with 5% or more direct or indirect

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ownership interest in the provider. High-risk nursing home providers must comply with this requirement.

OIG will send a letter to providers identified as high risk if fingerprints are required. Providers have 30 calendar days from the letter date to comply or their Wisconsin Medicaid enrollment will be terminated.

Refer to the [Fingerprint Requirement Overview](#) page of the Portal for more information including appointment scheduling, costs, and possible exemptions.

Legal Framework for Risk Levels and Screening Requirements

CMS established Medicaid provider risk levels and screening requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. ForwardHealth implemented these risk and screening requirements in 2013. Federal and state partners review these requirements regularly and make necessary changes to protect Medicaid program integrity and our valued members, including vulnerable individuals who receive nursing home services. Refer to [42 C.F.R. Part 424](#) to learn more about the federal requirement changes described in this Update.

Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Providers are responsible for preventing and reporting suspected fraud, waste, and abuse under federal and state Medicaid program rules and regulations. To report concerns:

- Call 877-865-3432.
- Visit reportfraud.wisconsin.gov.

For More Information

Refer to these resources for more information:

- [Risk Level Classification by Provider Type](#) page
- [Risk Assignment by Provider Type and Specialty chart \(PDF\)](#)
- [Module 3: Wisconsin Medicaid Enrollment Tips for Providers](#) video
- Provider Services call center at 800-947-9627 for enrollment, policy, and billing help

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Documentation Retention

Providers are reminded to follow documentation retention requirements found in Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#), which includes producing and submitting documentation to DHS upon request. According to Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services must maintain records as required by DHS for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit records to verify services were provided and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. DHS is authorized to deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet these requirements. Refusal to produce documentation may result in denial of submitted claims, recoupment of paid claims, intermediate sanctions, or termination from the Medicaid program.

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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/.