

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

Wisconsin serving you

Your First Source of ForwardHealth Policy and Program Information



PRESCRIBING, REFERRING, AND ORDERING PERMISSIONS UPDATED

Effective December 1, 2025, any Medicaid-enrolled provider **acting within the scope of the provider's practice** may now prescribe, refer, and order medical services and drugs. Previously, only physicians were reimbursed for prescribing, referring, and ordering these services. This change is in accordance with [2017 Wisconsin Act 119](#) and the 2023 Biennial Administrative Rule Changes.

Current licensing board expectations, statutes, rules, or regulations that define which provider types can prescribe, refer, and order medical services still apply.

Affected Services

Medical Services

The medical services and provider types that can prescribe, refer, and order services that fall under this new guidance include:

- Community recovery services
- Diagnostic imaging, such as laboratory and X-ray services

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers With Psychiatric Specialty, Audiologists, Family Planning Clinics, Home Health Agencies, Hospital Providers, Individual Medical Supply Providers, Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers, Intensive Outpatient Program Providers, Master's-Level Psychotherapists, Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Homes, Occupational Therapists, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinics, Personal Care Agencies, Pharmacies, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Qualified Treatment Trainees, Rehabilitation Agencies, Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers, Speech-Language Pathologists, Substance Abuse Counselors, SUD Health Home, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

- Durable medical equipment services
- Home health services or nursing services if a home health agency is unavailable
- Hospital inpatient and outpatient services (Note: This excludes psychiatric and alcohol or other substance abuse treatment services.)
- Mental health and psychosocial rehabilitative services, such as case management services
- Nursing services
- Nursing home services
- Personal care services
- Respiratory care services
- Skilled nursing facility and intermediate care facility services for patients of any institution for mental diseases
- Therapy services, including:
 - Care plan signatures
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Speech, hearing, and language disorders

Drug Prescriptions

Drug prescription services that fall under this new guidance include:

- Legend drug prescriptions
- Over-the-counter drug prescriptions

Refer to the ForwardHealth Portal and the [ForwardHealth Online Handbook](#) for more information on prescribing, referring, and ordering permissions.

Documentation Retention

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Providers are required to produce or submit documentation, or both, to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) upon request. Per Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services shall maintain records as required by DHS for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit such records to verify the actual provision of services and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. DHS may 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, application of intermediate sanctions, or termination from the Medicaid program.

QUICK LINKS

- [ForwardHealth Online Handbook](#)
 - [Resources for Physicians](#)
- page

THE KEY MESSAGE

Any Medicaid-enrolled provider acting within the scope of the provider's practice may now prescribe, refer, and order medical services and drugs.

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2017 Wisconsin Act 119.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This ForwardHealth Update applies to prescription providers and services that members receive on a fee-for-service basis and through BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid SSI, and other managed care programs. For information about managed care implementation of the updated 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 information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2017 Wisconsin Act 119.

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 HIV 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/.