

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN ADVANCED BREAST IMAGING PROCEDURE CODES

Effective July 1, 2026, providers no longer need to request prior authorization (PA) for some advanced imaging procedure codes for Medicaid-enrolled members who have an increased risk of breast cancer.

Overview

[2025 Wisconsin Act 103](#), also known as Gail's Law, allows individuals who are at an increased risk of breast cancer to receive additional screenings. The law requires health insurers (including Wisconsin Medicaid) to cover advanced breast imaging for these individuals. These policy changes are intended to help people get these screenings more quickly, resulting in earlier detection of breast cancer.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Community Health Centers, Family Planning Clinics, Hospital Providers, Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Pharmacies, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2025 Wisconsin Act 103.

Situations When PA Is No Longer Required

PA is no longer required for the first instance in a 12-month period for the advanced breast imaging services listed in the next section by Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, when the member meets either of these clinical criteria:

- The member has an increased risk of breast cancer, according to the most recent applicable [guidelines](#) of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.
- The member has heterogeneously or extremely dense breast tissue, as defined by the [Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System](#) established by the American College of Radiology.

Providers must request PA if the service is provided more than once in a 12-month period.

Claims Submission

For the first advanced breast imaging service within a 12-month period, providers must submit claims to ForwardHealth using these CPT procedure codes with modifier UA (Advanced imaging service is exempt from PA requirements):

- 77046 (Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; unilateral)
- 77047 (Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; bilateral)
- 77048 (Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without and with contrast material[s], including computer-aided detection [CAD real-time lesion detection, characterization and pharmacokinetic analysis] when performed; unilateral)
- 77049 (Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without and with contrast material[s], including computer-aided detection [CAD real-time lesion detection, characterization and pharmacokinetic analysis] when performed; bilateral)



Providers must use modifier UA on claims with these advanced imaging codes for members who meet the criteria.

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- 77061 (Diagnostic digital breast tomosynthesis; unilateral)
- 77062 (Diagnostic digital breast tomosynthesis; bilateral)

Refer to these ForwardHealth Online Handbook topics for more information about PA and submitting claims for these codes:

- 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Completion Instructions topic #[17797](#)
- Situations When Prior Authorization Is Not Required topic #[10730](#)
- Codes topic #[10734](#)

Documentation Retention

As a reminder, providers 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.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This ForwardHealth Update applies to advanced breast imaging 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.

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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 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/.