

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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BADGERCARE PLUS POSTPARTUM COVERAGE PERIOD EXTENDED TO 12 MONTHS

Effective June 1, 2026, ForwardHealth extended the BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period to 12 months after a member's last day of pregnancy. This coverage is available to most members who are enrolled in full-benefit BadgerCare Plus as a pregnant person.

As a result of this change, members receiving services through the prenatal care coordination (PNCC) benefit will also receive 12 months instead of 60 days of services.

This ForwardHealth Update contains information about:

- The [BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage extension policy](#) with:
 - [Coverage extension dates](#) based on a member's last day of pregnancy.
 - Member enrollment [eligibility](#) and [exceptions](#).
 - The new policy's impact on [former members whose coverage recently ended](#).

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, BadgerCare Plus HMOs, Medicaid

TO

All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

QUICK LINKS

- [BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program topic #785](#)
- [Applying for Ongoing BadgerCare Plus or Family Planning Only Services Coverage topic #887](#)
- [Retroactive Enrollment topic #280](#)
- [Examples of Ongoing Responsibilities topic #216](#)

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2025 Wisconsin Act 102.

- The [PNCC postpartum coverage extension policy](#).
- [Member resources](#).

BadgerCare Plus Postpartum Coverage Extension

Effective June 1, 2026, most members enrolled in BadgerCare Plus coverage while either pregnant or in their postpartum period qualify for 12 months of coverage of all covered Medicaid services, including those unrelated to pregnancy.

Note: Individuals whose pregnancy ended between January 1, 2026, and May 31, 2026, may also receive this BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage extension for a total of 12 consecutive months.

Refer to the dates outlined in the [coverage table](#) to determine how long a member's extension will be based on their pregnancy end date.

The extension provides coverage from the last day of pregnancy (regardless of how the pregnancy ends) through the end of the month in which the 365th day after the end of the pregnancy occurs.

Prior to this extension, BadgerCare Plus provided 60 days of postpartum coverage to members after the end of a pregnancy.

The 12-month postpartum coverage period can end prior to the 12 months only if the member:

- Gained eligibility through incorrect information or agency error.
- Asks to disenroll from coverage.
- Moves outside of Wisconsin.
- Dies.

REMINDER

BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage provides 365 days of services after a member's pregnancy ends. The window of coverage occurs for 365 days through the end of the month in which the 365th day falls. For example, if the end of a qualifying member's pregnancy occurred on April 14, 2026, their postpartum coverage period would end on April 30, 2027.

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Coverage Extension Dates

This table describes how 12-month postpartum coverage end dates are calculated for members covered by BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid.

IF THE PREGNANCY END DATE IS ...	AND THE CURRENT POSTPARTUM PERIOD END DATE IS ...	THEN THE 12-MONTH POSTPARTUM COVERAGE IS ...
From January 1 to January 31, 2026,	March 31, 2026,	Extended 10 months → January 31, 2027.
From February 1 to February 28, 2026,	April 30, 2026,	Extended 10 months → February 28, 2027.
From March 1 to March 31, 2026,	May 31, 2026,	Extended 10 months → March 31, 2027.
April 1, 2026, or later,	N/A	12 months total coverage.

Member Enrollment and Eligibility

To ensure that they receive postpartum coverage, members should report their pregnancy to their income maintenance (IM) agency once they become aware of the pregnancy. They should also report to their IM agency when their pregnancy ends.

If someone is already enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Wisconsin Medicaid but does not report a pregnancy until after it has ended, they may still qualify for postpartum coverage, but they must be enrolled during the month in which the pregnancy ended.

If someone applies for coverage after their pregnancy has ended, they are eligible for 12 months of postpartum coverage if they obtain retroactive coverage for the month in which the pregnancy ended.

Eligibility Exceptions to BadgerCare Plus Postpartum Coverage

Members will not qualify for the 12-month BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period if any of these statements are true:

- They were enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program.
- They were only enrolled in BadgerCare Plus through presumptive eligibility, also known as Express Enrollment.
- Their pregnancy ended before January 1, 2026.

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Refer to ForwardHealth Online Handbook BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program topic #[785](#) and Applying for Ongoing BadgerCare Plus or Family Planning Only Services Coverage topic #[887](#) for more information about these services.

Former Members Whose Coverage Recently Ended

Individuals whose BadgerCare Plus 60-day postpartum coverage ended March 31, 2026, or April 30, 2026, and no longer have BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid coverage must call their agency to request reinstatement of their coverage for the remainder of their 12-month postpartum period. Retroactive enrollment is subject to the current policy.

Refer to Retroactive Enrollment topic #[280](#) for more information.

Prenatal Care Coordination Postpartum Coverage Extension

Beginning June 1, 2026, ForwardHealth extended the postpartum service window for PNCC to 12 months. This extension is retroactive and follows the same [coverage extension dates](#).



IMPORTANT!

Providers may retroactively bill back to March 1, 2026, for ongoing care coordination delivered to members receiving PNCC services.

PNCC is a [Medicaid benefit](#) that provides support and services to pregnant members during and after pregnancy. For example, a PNCC provider may help a member schedule and coordinate various medical appointments or connect them with a behavioral health provider in their community.

Members can access this benefit throughout their postpartum period.

Refer to Examples of Ongoing Responsibilities topic #[216](#) for more information.

Member Resources

Members who need help with their health care coverage can:

- Go to the [WisCovered.com](#) website.
- Call Covering Wisconsin at 877-942-6837.
- Contact their local or Tribal agency found on the [Income Maintenance and Tribal Agency Contact Information](#) webpage.

RESOURCES

Providers should refer to the [Prenatal Care Coordination](#) service area of the Online Handbook for information about billing, documentation, and recordkeeping policy.

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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 Update applies to the postpartum BadgerCare Plus coverage period 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/.