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# WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

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FEBRUARY 12, 1998

UPDATE 98-08

TO:  
All Providers  
HMOs and Other Managed Care  
Programs

## Information for All Providers

- **Wisconsin Medicaid and SSI Children: Questions and Answers**
- **Medicaid HMO Information**
- **Medicaid Fiscal Agent (EDS) Professional Relations Representatives List**

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### Wisconsin Medicaid and SSI Children: Questions and Answers

**Q. What are the recent changes in federal law that will affect children receiving SSI ?**

**A. The 1996 federal changes are:**

- Federal welfare reform legislation, specifically the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, enacted on August 22, 1996, narrowed the definition of disability for children eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- The new definition requires a child to have a physical or mental condition that can be medically proven and which results in marked and severe functional limitations.
- The new definition also changes the way certain behavior problems are evaluated and discontinues the individualized

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functional assessment established in a 1990 Supreme Court ruling known as the Zebley case.

The 1997 federal changes are:

- The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires states to maintain Medicaid eligibility for all children who meet all of the following criteria:
  - Were eligible for SSI on August 22, 1996.
  - Lost SSI based on the new definition of disability enacted on August 22, 1996.
  - Meet all other Medicaid eligibility rules.

**Q. How many children in Wisconsin will be affected?**

**A.** In Wisconsin, approximately 6,390 children were affected by the 1996 legislation, requiring a review by the Division of Health's Disability Determination Bureau. The Disability Determination Bureau performs these assessments for the Social Security Administration (SSA). These reviews are currently underway.

- Approximately 4,000 children in Wisconsin may lose their SSI benefits as a result of the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation.
- Based on the new 1997 federal legislation, children who lose their SSI because of the new definition of disability will continue to receive Medicaid benefits as long as they continue to meet the income and asset limits for SSI-related Medicaid.
- For those children who do not meet the income and asset limits, they may qualify for Wisconsin Medicaid under the Healthy Start income criteria.

**Q. How will families know if their children are affected by these changes?**

**A.** *For SSI Eligibility*

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has already contacted all families whose children may be affected by these changes. Most families have completed their case review and some of these families have been notified by the SSA that their SSI will be discontinued.

*For Medicaid Eligibility*

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services has extended Medicaid coverage for these children while procedures are developed for the new redetermination process. At the point of implementation, families will receive a letter telling them the steps necessary to redetermine their child's eligibility for Wisconsin Medicaid.

**Q. What are the chances that these children losing SSI will remain eligible for Wisconsin Medicaid?**

**A.** Unless a family's income and resources change significantly, most of these children will continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits.

**Q. Who should families contact for further information?**

*For Federal SSI Cash Payments*

Families may call the Social Security Administration toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (7 AM to 7 PM) with questions on SSI eligibility.

*For Wisconsin Medicaid*

Medicaid recipients may call the SSI/MA hotline toll-free at 1-800-888-7989 (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM) (TDY and translation services are available). Anyone may contact their county or tribal agency with questions on Medicaid eligibility.

## Medicaid HMO Information

### **Dental services**

Starting February 1, 1998, only Medicaid HMO enrollees in the following counties will have their dental services provided through their Medicaid HMO's dental network: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha, and Rock (only Humana/WHO HMO).

Starting February 1, 1998, HMO enrollees in Rock County who have a Medicaid HMO card with the HMO designation of "HMOWHO" must receive their dental services through their Humana/WHO dental provider network. All other Medicaid HMO enrollees in Rock County may receive Medicaid-covered dental services from any Medicaid-certified dentist on a fee-for-service basis.

Medicaid HMO enrollees in all other counties may receive Medicaid-covered dental services from any Medicaid-certified dentist on a fee-for-service basis.

### **Medicaid HMO ID card changes**

As of January 1, 1998, Medicaid HMO ID cards no longer indicate whether dental and chiropractic services are provided through an enrollee's Medicaid HMO. Providers who have questions regarding whether dental or chiropractic services are provided by the HMO may call the Eligibility Hotline at (608) 221-9254 or Voice Response at 1-800-947-3544.



# Medicaid Fiscal Agent (EDS) Professional Relations Representatives Map

**Diane Schlichting, Director**  
(608) 221-4746, ext. 3010

**Denise Kruswicki**  
Northwest Wisconsin  
(715) 392-3143

**Joan Buntin**  
North Central Wisconsin  
(715) 848-7566

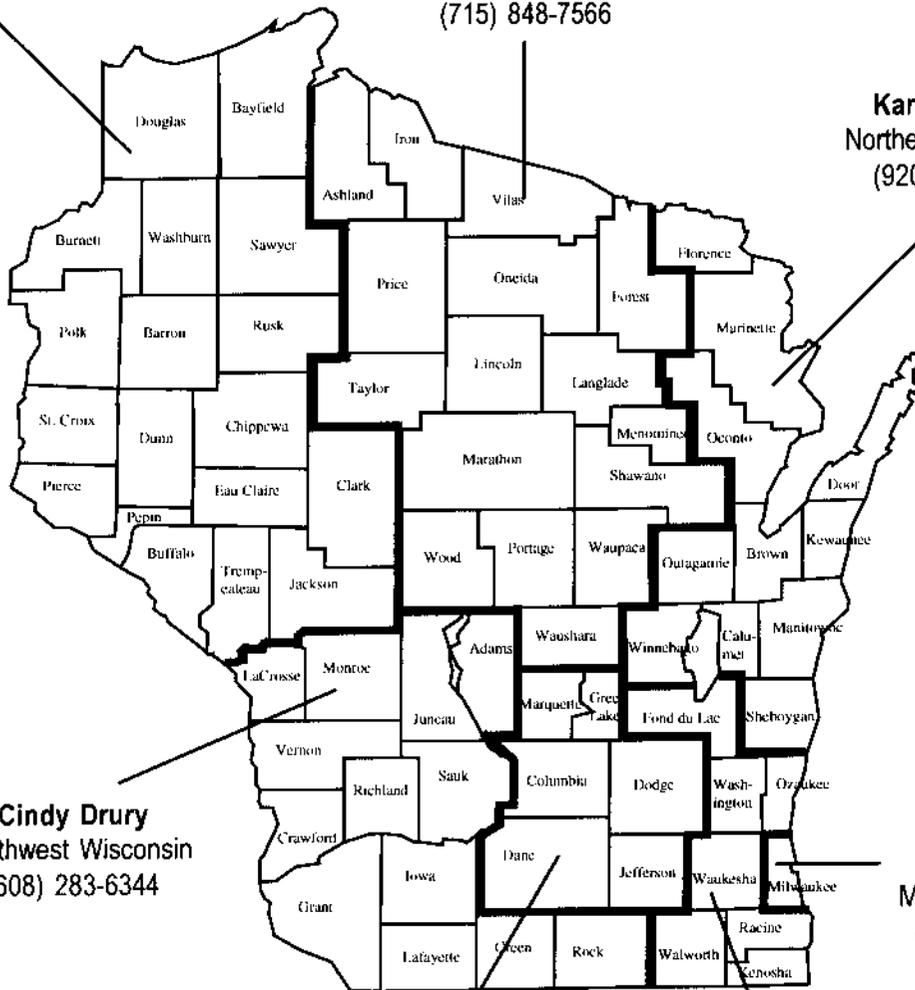
**Karen Gordon**  
Northeast Wisconsin  
(920) 336-0527

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(608) 283-6344

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Milwaukee County  
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(608) 255-8521

**Vicky Murphy**  
Southeast Wisconsin  
(414) 963-8966



## Medicaid Fiscal Agent (EDS) Professional Relations Representatives

The Medicaid fiscal agent (EDS) professional relations department is available to assist providers in resolving complex billing problems and to assist in provider training activities. Below is a list of staff and the counties in which they serve. Your professional relations representative must be contacted through her answering service.

**Diane Schlichting, Director**  
6406 Bridge Road  
Madison, WI 53784-0001  
(608) 221-4746, ext. 3010

**Judy Benish - South Central Wisconsin**  
(608) 255-8521

Columbia      Dane              Dodge              Green Lake      Jefferson          Marquette

**Joan Buntin - North Central Wisconsin**  
(715) 848-7566

Ashland          Langlade          Menominee      Price              Vilas              Wood  
Forest            Lincoln            Oneida          Shawano          Waupaca  
Iron                Marathon          Portage          Taylor              Waushara

**Cindy Drury - Southwest Wisconsin**  
(608) 283-6344

Adams            Green              Juneau            LaFayette          Richland          Sauk  
Crawford       Iowa                LaCrosse        Monroe              Rock                Vernon  
Grant

**Karen Gordon - Northeast Wisconsin**  
(920) 336-0527

Brown            Door                Kewaunee        Marinette          Outagamie        Winnebago  
Calumet        Florence          Manitowoc        Oconto              Sheboygan

**Denise Kruswicki - Northwest Wisconsin**  
(715) 392-3143

Barron           Burnett            Douglas           Jackson            Polk                Sawyer  
Bayfield        Chippewa        Dunn              Pepin                Rusk                Trempealeau  
Buffalo        Clark              Eau Claire        Pierce                St. Croix           Washburn

**Vicky Murphy - Southeast Wisconsin**  
(414) 963-8966

Fond du Lac    Ozaukee          Racine            Walworth          Washington        Waukesha  
Kenosha

**Tami Radwill - Milwaukee County**  
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