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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

Your Source for Strategies, Suggestions & Stories on Accessing Health Care and Coverage in Wisconsin.

April 30 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 8

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

A statewide membership assuring a more competent, coordinated public health workforce.

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HealthWatch Membership: Join or Renew Today!

A new membership year is fast approaching!

The staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin have officially kicked off the new membership drive.

Take 5 minutes to complete this **MEMBERSHIP FORM** to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events. Join as an individual member for \$30, or get together with co-workers and join as an organization or only \$120. Join on organization committed to unifying the public health workforce, with emphasis on teaching, training, and information sharing! The membership year runs July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

Think the new rules of national health reform will be confusing?

HealthWatch can help! Members will receive a new publication, "My Guide to National Health Reform" in the fall, free with membership. This is in addition to the multiple publications members receive, such as the "AdvoKit," "2010 Resources Guide," "My Guide To Medical Debt," "Non-qualified Immigrant Coverage Chart," BadgerCare Plus fact sheets and charts, and more. Membership materials total over \$200 in value.

Want to watch video trainings at your desk or in the comfort of your own home? HealthWatch Members throughout the 2010-2011 membership year will be eligible to login to the HealthWatch Training Portal accessible wherever there is an internet connection.

Did someone say GREEN BAY PACKERS? If you join HealthWatch Wisconsin BEFORE JULY 1, you are eligible for the very first Green Bay Packer Ticket Prize Drawing of the year! **The winner will receive two indoor deluxe club seat tickets** to the very first pre-season game being played at Lambeau Field:

Packers v. Cleveland Browns
Saturday, August 14, 2010, 7:00PM

I like the odds! HealthWatch Wisconsin does multiple prize drawings throughout the membership year. In 2009-2010, 1 of every 40 HealthWatch Members walked away with Packers tickets.

Questions? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.



Bobby and Erin react to a tumultuous Wisconsin Legislative Session
Filmed April 28

Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Barron: TBA, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Chippewa: May 11, 2010, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) or 1-800-400-3678 with questions.

Dane: May 3, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact [Erin McBride](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 with questions.

Dunn: TBD, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact [Patrick Reberman](#) or (715) 233-7309 with questions.

Eau Claire: May 6, 2010, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact [Lou Kelsey](#) or (715) 834-4455 or [Pat Perkins](#) or (715) 839-4718 with questions.

Milwaukee: May 12, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Lerch](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [Ginger Dzick](#) at (414) 443-4527 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): TBA, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact [Brad Holman](#) or (414) 266-3189 with questions.

Polk: TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

Family Health Benefits Bill KILLED by Procedural Move

In preparation for a changing health care landscape, ABC for Health partnered with the Department of Health Services and the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance as well as lead sponsors Senator Miller and Representative Donna Seidel to develop the "Family Health Benefits Bill" (AB 878) to lay the foundation to support a statewide network of Health Benefits Counselors in Wisconsin.

On April 22, AB 878, the Family Health Benefits Bill, was added to the Senate Calendar. On a routine, procedural motion, Sen. Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) objected to the Bill being read for a third time (all Bills are read three times before being voted on.) To overcome this objection, the Senate needed a supermajority vote--a 2/3 vote, to allow the Bill to be read. While we had the majority vote, we did not have a supermajority. Senator Fitzgerald killed the Family Health Benefits Bill with his objection.

Thank you for contacting your Senator to encourage a vote to promote health benefits advocacy in Wisconsin! Senators heard stories of the families we all work with every day--those who have lost jobs, lost insurance, have a sudden illness, or are otherwise in need of assistance navigating confusing health care coverage systems.

"This does not end here," said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and director of ABC for Health in a statement reacting to the close of the Wisconsin Legislative Session. "The bill, unfortunately, was politicized," continued Peterson, "connecting families to health coverage should not be a partisan issue -- it's about helping Wisconsin families get the health care coverage they need and deserve. Despite efforts to kill this bill, we're going to work even harder to educate folks, to work with HealthWatch Wisconsin, to make sure that people understand their coverage options and legal rights to challenge coverage denials."

Legislative History:

- Executive Session in the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance on March 30 for a vote: ended in a tie.
- Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform on March 31 for a vote and passed 8-4
- Passed the Joint Finance Committee with a vote of 12-4
- Moved to the Assembly Rules Committee April 9
- Passes Assembly on April 20 with a vote of 50-48
- Messaged to the Senate, read twice--objected to before a vote.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan: Heads to the Governor's Desk

The [BadgerCare Plus Basic Bill](#) was on the Wisconsin Senate Floor for exciting debate February 25. The Bill went to the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform, followed by the Assembly Rules Committee in early April. The Bill passed the Assembly on April 20 and passed the Senate on April 22. The Bill was presented to the Governor on April 27, and was signed into law on April 29, 2010 at 12:30pm in a ceremony in Madison. Some interesting things to note:

- An amendment passed along with the bill puts an "end date" on the BadgerCare Plus Basic program, scheduled for December 31, 2013.

La Crosse: Contact [Lindsey Schwarz](#) or (608) 785-5841 with questions.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. May 25, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

Coming Soon: Immigrant Health Coverage Workshops

Stay tuned for an announcement about our **Immigrant Health Coverage Trainings** for 2010 that will include the latest information on expansions in health coverage under the new CHIPRA legislation. Weigh in on where you would like to see this spring training as we plan the details for this event. Call Brynne at (608)261-6939 ext 210 or email: bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

Links of Interest

Congratulations to Sara Finger-Warmuth, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, Named Women's Health Rising Star by the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. Sara served on the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council from 2008-2010. [Click here for more information on this award](#)

Wisconsin Women's Health Policy Summit, May 12, 2010, at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison, WI. Join this event with a mission of collectively raising the status of women's health in Wisconsin. [Register Online](#)

New in April:

Kaiser's Monthly Update on Health Disparities: This free, [monthly update](#) synthesizes news coverage from hundreds of print and broadcast news sources related to health and health care issues affecting underserved and racial and ethnic communities.

Kaiser's Public Opinion Poll: "Do you know how health reform will impact you?" More than half (56%) of Americans say they don't yet have

- Two enhancements to the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan will go into effect as the Bill is signed into law, relating to transportation reimbursement and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment.
- Eligible, childless adults on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list (there are about 40,000 waiting) will be re-evaluated for eligibility as Basic enrollment begins.

Governor Jim Doyle issued the following statement regarding BadgerCare Basic after the Legislature passed the bill and sent it to the Governor's desk.

"BadgerCare Plus Basic is an important program that will provide access to basic, stripped down health care to nearly 40,000 people who really need it, at absolutely no cost to taxpayers...This is not a Cadillac plan, and the program will be entirely paid for by those who use it. Basic coverage can be the difference between having protection while you try and get your feet back on the ground and going bankrupt trying to pay for medical care."

Other Bills Signed into Law this Week:

Senate Bill 362, the Mental Health Parity Act, requires that group health insurance policies cover mental health, alcoholism and other drug abuse treatment services at the same level as other types of treatment. The bill also eliminates the minimum annual amounts of coverage that a group health insurance policy must provide for individuals with those conditions. Governor Doyle thanked Sen. Hansen, Sen. Wirch, Rep. Pasch, and Rep. Richards for their work on this legislation.

Assembly Bill 247 grants high school diplomas to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities. Governor Doyle thanked Representatives Milroy and Radcliffe and Senators Hansen and Lehman for their work on the bill.

Assembly Bill 659 makes a number of changes in the law related to the administration of HIV tests and the disclosure of HIV test results. Governor Doyle thanked Representatives Shilling and Richards and Senators Robson and Taylor for their work on the bill.

Assembly Bill 709 requires a retail establishment to allow those with certain medical conditions access to toilet facilities and provides immunity from civil liability related to use of the toilet facilities. Governor Doyle thanked Representatives Van Roy and Soletski and Senators Lehman and Hansen for their work on the bill.

Assembly Bill 770, the Critical Access Hospitals Bill. This bill ensures that the 59 communities that are served by Critical Access Hospitals can leverage additional resources and federal funding. Governor Doyle thanked Representatives Hraychuck and Ballweg and Senators Miller, Kreitlow and Olsen for their work on the bill. Governor Doyle also thanked Columbus Community Hospital CEO Ed Harding for chairing the Committee on Rural Health Care that brought together the Wisconsin Hospital Association and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative to help develop the bill.

Legislative Action Alerts!

As Wisconsin's Governor prepares to sign the last of the legislation into law this spring, we will bring you updates on bills important to HealthWatch Wisconsin! For the archive of "Action Alerts," visit our website where the [Legislative Action Alert](#) series issued by HealthWatch Wisconsin is posted.

ACTION ALERT

enough information to understand how health reform will affect them personally. Read the report [here](#).

Resources by Compass Wisconsin - [click here](#) for a listing of resources for children with long-term support needs and their families.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership

There has never been a better time to become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, you are teaming up with an impressive new effort in Wisconsin that will work to focus and amplify the voices of health care advocates across the state.

Your individual membership fee is still only \$20 and ensures that you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational membership for just \$75.** [Click here](#) for more information about HealthWatch Wisconsin and the ticket drawings, or call Brynne at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 210.

New Materials

Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion and Simplification-[Early Data on Program Impact](#)

Health Reform Side-by-Side and Calculator: The Kaiser Foundation has updated its [interactive side-by-side health reform comparison tool](#) to reflect provisions included in President Obama's health reform proposal, unveiled Monday morning in advance of Thursday's reform summit with congressional leaders. The new proposal is based on the bill passed by the Senate in December, but incorporates some elements from the House-passed bill and other changes outlined in the new White House summary.

In March 2010, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation put out a new

Family Planning Waiver Enrollment for Men May 1st Start Date!

The Department of Health Services has received federal approval to extend the Family Planning Waiver to Men. **Starting May 1, 2010**, the Family Planning Waiver and Temporary Enrollment / Presumptive Eligibility for the Family Planning Waiver will extend eligibility to men, provided they meet the same financial and non-financial eligibility rules in place for females.

Family Planning Waiver program (FPW) provides limited benefits for family planning services for women with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and who are: between the ages of 15 years of age and 44, and not enrolled in BC+ without a premium or receiving other full benefit Medicaid. Information about FPW is found in the BadgerCare Plus Handbook, [Chapter 40](#). See the Department of Health Service's [Operations Memo](#) below for more detail.

FPW will provide **covered services** that are similar to the services covered for female enrollees:

- Contraception supplies
- Sterilization procedures for males 21 years of age and older
- Limited services related to the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections
- Office visits related to these services are also covered

Note: Individuals who have no need for family planning services (individuals who have already had a vasectomy, tubal ligation, or hysterectomy) are not eligible for coverage under FPW services.

To Register

- To find the local agency in your area, [look online](#) or call 1-800-362-3002
- Register Online: [State of Wisconsin Access Website](#)

Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look at some events, announcements, and news from around the State. Coalition contacts are listed if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.

Eau Claire County Coalition: As is the case in a few other counties, individuals in Eau Claire are receiving denial notices from the BadgerCare Plus Core plan. These notices indicate the loss of coverage is due to the enrollee's "Current Access to Insurance." In reality, these individuals have not had insurance in years. The computer system is pulling coverage information from the distant past. To fix the problem, advocates are calling the Advocate's help line (888) 415-2116 or (608) 261-9305 to request assistance in removing that information from the enrollee's file. The advocate should be sure to indicate the date the private insurance ended. Once the information is removed, be sure to help the enrollee check their benefits online to make sure their information and review dates are correct.

Chippewa County Coalition: Please join the coalition for an event!

report, [Implementing State Health Reform - Lessons for Policymakers](#), that contains a lot of useful information on the state changes that could come about as a result of health care reform.

Briefs Examine Health Insurance Exchanges and Subsidy Assistance In Health Reform Law:

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed into law in March 2010, made broad changes to the way health insurance will be provided and paid for, including the creation of health insurance exchanges starting in 2014. The law also includes provisions to lower premiums and cost-sharing requirements for Americans with low and modest incomes. The Kaiser Family Foundation has issued two new explaining health reform briefs that walk through the relevant provisions in the law.

- [Questions](#) About Health Insurance Exchanges
- [Questions](#) About Health Insurance Subsidies
- The Foundation also has an [interactive calculator](#) that helps to illustrate the premium subsidies that might be available.

Tools for Health Care Reform: IRS Provides Guidance on Tax Treatment of Employer-Provided Health Benefits for Dependents Under Age 27:

Recent health care reform legislation generally requires group health plans offering dependent coverage for children to continue providing that coverage for adult children until age 26. The legislation also extends the Code Section 105(b) income exclusion for medical care expense reimbursements under an employer-provided accident or health plan to employees' children who are under age 27 as of the end of the taxable year. The IRS has now issued guidance on the tax treatment of employer-provided health benefits for these children.

[Notice 2010-38](#)
[News Release](#)
[Fact Sheet](#)

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated information on their website, including: a [Summary of Final Healthcare Reform Law](#) and [A](#)

- BadgerCare Plus Community Forum
- May 11, 2010
- Chippewa County Courthouse Room 003 (Lower Level), Chippewa 711 N. Bridge Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
- Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the presentation runs from 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Please RSVP to Rose Marsh by Tuesday May 4th if you plan to attend. Rose can be reached at: 1-800-400-3678 ext 2132 or by [email](#).
- This forum is presented by the HealthWatch Committee of the Chippewa County Department of Public Health with support of the Open Door Clinic.

UPDATE: Federal Poverty Guidelines Stay at 2009 Levels

Congress has taken action to keep the [2009 poverty guidelines](#) in effect until at least May 31, 2010.

It took an act of Congress to keep the 2009 poverty guidelines in effect well into 2010. Why? The Consumer Price Index annual average for 2009 went down. Without action, Health and Human Services would have had to issue 2010 poverty guidelines that were **lower** than the 2009 poverty guidelines. The US [Department of Health and Human Services Web Site](#) provides the following detail on the actions Congress has taken on this matter:

1. On December 19, 2009, Congress enacted and the President signed the [Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010](#), which included a provision to **freeze** the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines at 2009 levels in order to prevent a reduction in eligibility for programs including Medicaid, FoodShare, etc., through March 1, 2010.
2. On March 2, 2010, Congress enacted and the President signed the [Temporary Extension Act of 2010](#), which included a provision that replaced "March 1, 2010" with "March 31, 2010".
3. On April 15, 2010, the Congress enacted and the President signed the [Continuing Extension Act of 2010](#), which included a provision, Section 6, that replaces "March 31, 2010" with "May 31, 2010". The effect of this was to extend the 2009 poverty guidelines until at least May 31, 2010.

Updates from DHS

Operations Memos

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and/or rationales drawn from the information provided by DHS. Any "Opinions" highlighted below are interpretations of HealthWatch Wisconsin staff and Update editors. Follow the links to view the actual memos:

Ops Memo 10-35: Family Planning Waiver Eligibility Expanded to Include Males (Released April 29)

New Policy: Starting May 1, 2010, the Family Planning Waiver (FPW) and Temporary Enrollment/Presumptive Eligibility for the Family Planning Waiver will extend eligibility to men, provided they meet the same financial and non-financial eligibility rules in place for females. The Family Planning Waiver test group is formed using the rules for regular BadgerCare Plus ([Chapter 2](#)). If a

[printable comparison](#) of the new health reform law (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), the House-passed Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and last year's House-passed bill.

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Summer 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a cover letter and resume to bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

DHS Resources: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:

- [To Apply Online \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Core Plan Publications Page](#)
- [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Booklet](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

Phone Support

- For questions from **applicants: The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002**
- For questions from **advocates/professionals: (608)261-9305 or 1-888-415-2116**. (DHS has asked that this number not be shared with the public.)

For Milwaukee Residents--the new Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MiES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)
 Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676
 FAX: (414) 438-4580
 In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area
 Emails: dhsmls@wisconsin.gov - for new

husband and wife both apply for FPW, their eligibility will be determined on the same case, with CARES building two separate FPW sequences. The income of both spouses will be included in the FPW determination and tested against a group size of two. The husband will be a 'Counted Adult' in the wife's determination and the wife will be a 'Counted Adult' in the husband's determination. A child that the husband or wife is legally responsible for is also included as 'Counted Child' in the FPW test group.

System Issue: Currently, the system is not recognizing the non-marital co-parents as part of each other's test group. If two non-married adults, with a child in common, apply for FPW, only the primary person's FPW eligibility will be built on the case. The child in common will be a 'Counted Child' in the FPW determination and the non-marital co-parent will be an 'Excluded Adult'. In this situation, FPW will be tested against the income limits for a group size of two. The non-marital co-parent will fail for reason code '531: The person who requested the Family Planning Waiver is not this individual's spouse, parent or qualified relative'.

Until the system can be fixed, the non-marital co-parent who is not the primary person must be tested for FPW on his or her own case. In order to determine the non-marital co-parent's FPW, a separate application must be completed, and a companion case created, (including any children that the non-marital co-parent is responsible for).

Ops Memo 10-33: Implementing Policy and Automation for SSI Transition Plans and Updating Policy and Automation for W-2 Supportive Service Plans (Released April 12)

New Policy: This Memo provides W-2 agencies with new policy and automation instructions for developing SSI and SSDI Transition Plans for W-2 Participants, as well as updated policy and automation instructions for developing W-2 Supportive Service Plans for applicants that withdraw their W-2 applications prior to W-2 placement and participants who are placed in case management placement.

Provider Updates

[2010 Introduction to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid Training Available](#)

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is conducting Introduction to BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid training sessions beginning in June and continuing through November 2010. These training sessions are for new providers or new staff at current providers who would like to increase their knowledge of BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid. Registration for these sessions is required; however, the DHS does not charge a fee for attending. Seating is limited, so providers should register early. Providers may register online by going to the Portal and accessing the [Providers Trainings page](#) or can register by calling Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

[Specialty Pharmacy Drug Reimbursement Rate Changes](#)

Effective for dates of service on and after April 15, 2010, specialty pharmacy drugs will be reimbursed at different rates. Reimbursement will be based on the therapeutic class of the drug. The changes described in this ForwardHealth Update affect BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program. Specialty Pharmacy Drug Reimbursement Rate Changes Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after April 15, 2010, reimbursement for certain specialty pharmacy drugs will be changing. An estimated acquisition cost (EAC) will be established for specialty pharmacy drugs by therapeutic class. The EAC will be based on the average wholesale price (AWP) minus a specified percent. Providers may

applications, verifications, etc.
dhsmileschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov
 - Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MILES with advocate questions.

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:

- [Contact Information Fliers](#)
- [Online Order Form](#)
- [Referral Sheet](#)
- [Guide to Applying](#)

Wisconsin State Journal Focus on Rural Health Care

Wisconsin State Journal health and medicine reporter David Wahlberg is undertaking a special reporting project this year, examining the challenges of providing health care services to rural communities.

Pieces thus far have focused on: the loss of [pharmacies](#) in rural areas, [doctor shortages](#) in [rural areas](#), and special feature stories, such as "[Life and Death in Park Falls](#)."

Installments on a variety of related issues will follow in the year ahead.

Joining Wahlberg on the project is State Journal photographer Craig Schreiner. To contact them, e-mail dwahlberg@madison.com or cschreiner@madison.com or call Wahlberg at 608-252-6125.

The project is partly supported by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, which awarded a fellowship to Wahlberg to pursue this health policy issue. To see previous chapters about the rural doctor shortage and challenges in the North Woods, [click here](#).

Previous Issues of the Update:

[View our Update Newsletter Library Online!](#)

refer to the Attachment of this ForwardHealth Update for a list of specialty pharmacy drugs, EAC, and effective dates. Drugs may be added and EACs changed frequently. Therefore, providers should refer frequently to the data tables found on the [ForwardHealth Portal](#).

Changes for Diabetic Supplies

Effective for dates of service on and after June 1, 2010, the following changes will occur for diabetic supplies: 1) Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes will no longer be accepted. To receive reimbursement, providers are required to indicate National Drug Codes on prior authorization requests and claims for all diabetic supplies. 2) ForwardHealth is establishing preferred and nonpreferred diabetic blood glucose meters and test strips.

CASE TIP: Medicaid Reimbursement for Birth and Delivery Costs

Medicaid will cover the birth and delivery costs for most low-income pregnant women. However, there is a catch: Wisconsin state law requires that unmarried fathers pay the "lying-in" or birth costs of newborns. Therefore if a father is not married to the baby's mother, the State will pursue legal action to require the father to pay for the birth costs. The legal process starts by Medicaid referring the father to the local child support agency (CSA).

If the father has not already acknowledged his paternity, the CSA will start a paternity case against him. If the father has acknowledged the paternity of the baby, the CSA will start a child support case against him, and may order him to pay some or all of the Medicaid-paid birth costs. In this situation, the State is partaking in "birth cost recovery" from the father.

Most single, divorced and separated parents enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus **Standard Plan** will be referred to Child Support. Most single, divorced and separated parents enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus **Benchmark Plan** will **not** be referred to Child Support.

The dollar amount that the father will be asked to pay is not the same dollar amount that appears on the hospital bill. There are several factors the CSA considers in setting the birth cost recovery amount:

- The county and region where the child is born,
- The number of children born,
- The type of delivery,
- If the provider is a health maintenance organization or a fee-for-service provider, and
- If any part of the birth cost is covered by a third party (private insurance, for example).
- NEW: The CSA must now consider the non-custodial father's income. This new change considers where the father falls on the Federal Poverty Level, and calculates a rate that does not exceed 5% of the father's current monthly income available for child support.

For more information on this change, please see the attachment.

Grapevine Issue: Core Plan Requires Physical!



In order to remain enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, members must have a comprehensive exam conducted by a medical provider within the first year of enrollment. The physical

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Did you miss an episode? [Visit our WATCHDOG LIBRARY to view videos](#) from 2008-present.

Lifeline and Link-Up Services!

Telecommunications assistance is available for many in Wisconsin! If you receive health benefits, housing, FoodShare or other public program assistance, and are under 135% FPL, you may qualify. To learn more, watch the new video filmed by ABC for Health on Lifeline and Link-Up services. Please [click here](#) to view the video.

We're on Facebook and Twitter!

Look for ABC for Health and Health Watch Wisconsin on [Facebook](#), and become a follower of ABC for Health on [Twitter!](#)

Rent the ABC for Health Studio

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support Our Efforts!

On behalf of the staff and students at ABC for Health, thank you for being a subscriber to the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update and WatchDog. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ABC for Health, to keep projects like HealthWatch Wisconsin sustainable! **To make a donation, please click the donation button** to be re-directed to our PayPal site where you can donate with a credit card.

exam requirement only needs to be performed once during the first year. No physical exam is required the second year of enrollment.

If a Core Plan enrollee does NOT obtain a physical exam by the end of the first year, that enrollee will be denied Core Plan when they attempt to renew their benefits. The individual in need of benefits would then need to apply for Core Plan waitlist, and will be put in a six-month restrictive re-enrollment period. *(Please note good cause exemptions possible)*

HMOs are required to provide access to exams (a requirement unique to WI Medicaid programs). Physicals obtained at a free clinic count! Make sure individuals receive a verification form from the clinic before leaving their appointment.

CKSN Corner
Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **CYSHCN Northeast Regional Center - Transitioning from Pediatric to Adult Health Care** - a free workshop for teens and their parents. Wednesday, May 5, 5:00-7:30 pm, CESA 7, Green Bay, 595 Baeten Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. To Register or for more information please call Crystal Heeg at (920)-969-5328, or toll free at (877) 568-5205.
- **Wisconsin FACETS** - Regional Conference, May 7, 10 a.m. - 2 pm, MLK Center, Racine. To register or for more information [email](#) or call: 877-374-0511. Register 1 week in advance. Workshop materials & call-in information will be mailed.
- **Family Voices of Wisconsin** - Did you Know-Now you Know! May 12, 5:00pm – 9:00pm, Racine County Highway and Office Building, 14200 Washington Ave., Sturtevant, WI, Contact [Brad Holman](#) at 414-266-3189 for more information.
- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. Call (414)427-9345 or email info@assew.org to register.
- **The Waisman Center** is doing trainings on **Setting Up and Facilitating A Transition IEP** in early May - check out the flier, [here](#).
- **9th Annual Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum - June 22 - July 2, 2010**, Edgewood College campus, Madison. A FREE weeklong leadership and development program for high school students with disabilities. Students will sharpen leadership and self-advocacy skills, increase career opportunity awareness, experience college life, hear

Make A Donation

To donate via check, please make the check payable to "ABC for Health, Inc.," at 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703. We greatly appreciate your generous donations. ABC for Health is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. **Thank you!**

Contact Us

Have ideas, events, or success stories to share? [Email your suggestions!](#) All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

[Bobby Peterson](#)

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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



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from successful speakers from across the state, and develop their own Personal Leadership Plan. Applications are due March 1, 2010, and include 2 brief essays and 3 letters of recommendation. To apply, click [here](#).

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010 A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available on-line](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. Directories are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time they are downloaded. For information or assistance in downloading the directories please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at [Wisconsin First Step](#); 1-800-642-7837.

Updated Contact Listing (12/10/2009) for the Regional CYSHCN Centers. Questions? [Email Jayne Vargas](#)

Katie Beckett Program Consultants: [View the Map and Listing of Consultants](#)

Tip Sheets for Siblings of People with Disabilities: [Adolescent and Young Adult Siblings](#); [Adult Siblings](#); [Information for Parents](#)

Champions for Inclusive Communities published a [fact sheet](#) on the 2005/6 National Survey of CSHCN.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and coverage in Wisconsin:

- [Governor Doyle Signs into Law BadgerCare Plus Basic - by the Associated Press, April 30](#)
- [United Healthcare joins prescription drug partnership - by the Business Journal of Milwaukee, April 28](#)
- [UnitedHealth makes health reform change early - by Chris Newmarker for the Business Journal of Milwaukee, April 28](#)
- [Wisconsin AG contacted GOP group on health care - by the Associated Press, April 28](#)
- [How federal health care reform will impact Wisconsin - by Alicia Yager for the Badger Herald, April 28](#)
- [Van Hollen Documents Show DOJ-GOP Coordination on Health Reform Law Suit - by One Wisconsin Now, April 27](#)
- [Eight getting public health awards Thursday - by Bill Novak for the Capital Times, April 22](#)
- [Wisconsin passes new health care program - the Wisconsin State Journal, April 22](#)
- [Assembly approves BadgerCare Plus Basic plan - WisPolitics.com, April 21](#)
- [Prescription drug roundup might be a record-breaker - by Ann Marie Ames for the Janesville Gazette, April 21](#)
- [New tax bill will mean more money for Wisconsin's rural hospitals - by David Wahlberg, for the Wisconsin State Journal, April 19](#)
- [Small hospitals expect dividend from new tax - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 19](#)
- [Child care centers overreact to illnesses, study finds - by Mark Johnson for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 18](#)
- [UnitedHealth CEO receives \\$8.9M in '09 - by Alex Ebert for the](#)

Business Journal of Milwaukee, from April 14

NEWS: Health Care Reform

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on reforming the health care system:

- [Health insurers end cancellations; enforcement key](#) - by Susan Heavy and Lewis Krauskopf for *Reuters*, April 30
- [Health insurers adopt some new rules early](#) - by David S. Hilzenrath for the *Washington Post*, April 30
- [CIGNA to Implement Federal Rescission Reforms on May 1](#) - by Chris Curran for the *CIGNA Newsroom*, April 29
- [States Decide on Running New Pools for Insurance](#) - by Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, April 29
- [Insurance industry will end rescission in May](#) - by Chris Frates and Jennifer Haberkorn - for *Politico*, April 26
- [Explaining Health Care Reform: Questions About Medicaid's Role](#) - by *Kaiser Health News*, April 23
- [Explaining Health Care Reform: Questions About the Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26](#) - by *Kaiser Health News*, April 23
- [Explaining Health Care Reform: Questions About the Temporary High-Risk Pool](#) - by *Kaiser Health News*, April 23
- [Sudden Impact: Understanding Five Immediate Benefits of Health Reform](#) - by Kate Pickert for *Time Magazine*, April 21
- [Insurers act on part of health law early](#) - by Alison Young for *USA Today*, April 20
- [Health insurers weighing options to get ahead of reform](#) - by David S. Hilzenrath for the *Washington Post*, April 18
- [The Influence Game: Health care fight still rages](#) - by Alan Fram for the *Associated Press*, April 17
- [Existing High Risk Pools Could Lock Some More Expensive Health Care Coverage](#) - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Huffington Post*, April 16
- [IRS May Withhold Tax Refunds to Enforce Health-Care Law](#) - by Martin Vaughan for the *Wall Street Journal*, April 16
- [Obama extends hospital visitation rights to same-sex partners of gays](#) - by Michael D. Shear for the *Washington Post*, April 16
- [Breyer: Health overhaul could come before court](#) - by Mark Sherman for the *Associated Press*, April 15

NEWS: Opinion

Click below for editorials and opinion pieces about health care reform:

- [Op-Ed: State view: Health-care reform offers innovative delivery benefits](#) - by Dr. Alan L. Goldbloom for the *Duluth News Tribune*, April 30
- [Op-Ed: Can't lower costs when you don't know them](#) - by Peter Beilenson and Ken Kochmann for the *Baltimore Sun*, April 30
- [Op-Ed: Yes, we can save money on health care](#) - by Don Surber - for the *Charleston Daily Mail*, April 28
- [Op-Ed: Three truths about health care reform and poker](#) - by Steve Wolfe for the *Indiana Gazette*, April 27
- [Op-Ed: Why Insuring Young Adults Until They Turn 26 is Good for the Rest of Us](#) - by Andrew Romano for *Newsweek*, April 27
- [Op-Ed: ObamaCare and the Constitution: What would Jefferson and Madison think?](#) - by Nathan Tucker for the *Christian Science Monitor*, April 27

- [Op-Ed: Republicans, Stay Focused on Overturning Health Care - by Liz Peek for FOXNews, April 27](#)
- [Op-Ed: Think about our health, on the double - by Eugene Kane for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 25](#)
- [Op-Ed from Wayne Goodwin About New Health Insurance Law - by Wayne Goodwin for BlueNC, April 23](#)
- [Op-Ed: Reform and Massachusetts - a New York Times editorial, April 20](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

Click the links below to read the latest news on health care costs and access:

- [California Insurer backs away from 39% hike - by Ben Rooney for CNN Money, April 30](#)
- [States Decide on Running New Pools for Insurance - by Robert Pear for the New York Times, April 29](#)
- [New Health Law Will Require Industry To Disclose Payments To Physicians - by Arlene Weintraub for Kaiser Health News, April 26](#)
- [Seeking a shot at a free clinic - by Molly Hennessy-Fiske for the Los Angeles Times, April 25](#)
- [Report says health care will cover more, cost more - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press, April 23](#)
- [New Health Law Brings Better Coverage For Women - by Joanne Silberner for NPR, April 23](#)
- [Health bill may mean lower Medicare premiums - by Noam Levey for the Los Angeles Times, April 22](#)
- [Health law could hike prices, makes employers drop coverage - by Bob Cusack for The Hill, April 22](#)
- [Senate Bill Sets Plan to Regulate Premiums - by Robert Pear for the New York Times, April 20](#)
- [Benefit for Uninsured May Still Pose Hurdle - by Roni Caryn Rabin for the New York Times, April 19](#)
- [Low-cost coverage in Obama health plan not for all - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press, April 16](#)
- [President Signs Bill to Extend Jobless Aid - by Carl Hulse for the New York Times, April 15](#)

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