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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

July 30, 2010

Vol. 6 No. 14

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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

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Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Barron: TBD, 9:00-10:00am. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

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

September Workshops: "Immigrant Health Coverage Options"

ABC for Health will hold live, in-person trainings for all skill levels in Madison and Milwaukee this September! Join us as we spend 3 hours digging into public benefits options for nonqualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants with citizen children, changes in new legislation affecting immigrants with legal permanent resident status, and more! This training starts with "the basics" and advances to "intermediate" level strategies! Not sure if it's appropriate for you? Call ABC for Health at (608)261-6939 ext. 210! ABC for Health will be in an area near you:



Madison	Milwaukee
Tuesday, September 14, 2010 9:00am-12:00pm Alliant Energy Center, Monona Room 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way Madison, WI 53713	Thursday, September 16, 2010 1:00pm-4:00pm Boy Scouts of America 330 S. 84th Street Milwaukee, WI 53214

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to download a registration form. Print, Complete and Return your registration form to ABC for Health via **Mail: 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703** or **Fax: (608)261-6938**. Attention HealthWatch Wisconsin Members: This workshop is FREE because you are a member! Thank you for joining HealthWatch Wisconsin. Not a member? It's not too late to join and take advantage of significant savings. Select the "registering for HealthWatch AND this Workshop" option on the registration form!

Live or Work Outside the Greater Madison or Milwaukee Area? You can have exclusive access to this workshop on-demand--delivered straight to your desktop. **Check Future Editions of the Update Newsletter for information on how to register** to receive the training via web cast. The link will become available approximately one week after the live trainings have concluded.

You Could Be Our Next Winner!

Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin are eligible for our frequent Green Bay Packer Ticket PRIZE DRAWINGS! If you or someone you know love the GREEN and GOLD, and have not yet joined HealthWatch, **JOIN BY MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd at 11:59pm! CLICK HERE TO JOIN OR RENEW** and be eligible for the third Green Bay Packer Ticket Prize Drawing of the 2010-2011 membership year. On Tuesday, August 3, HealthWatch Wisconsin will be drawing the name of one lucky winner of **TWO INDOOR DELUXE CLUB SEAT TICKETS** to:



Packers v. Indianapolis Colts
Saturday, August 26, 2010, 7:00PM

Have questions or want more information? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin--you can even register or renew over the phone: (608) 261-6939 ext. 215.

Questions Directed to Wisconsin's Medical Schools

WUHF Presenting Questions to Both Medical Schools; Opportunity for Schools to Respond in Writing

with questions.

Dane: August 2, 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 Rebman](#) or (715) 233-7309 with questions.

Eau Claire: September 2, 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: August 11, 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: August 12, 10:30am-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

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

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

It's Not Too Late To Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Take 5 minutes to complete and return our [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 for only \$120.

Joining or Renewing your HWW membership today gives you:

- Access to 12 publications

In a packed ballroom at Madison's Concourse Hotel in the afternoon of July 15, the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) documented their findings after months of digging into the policy, procedure, and practice of the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Conversion Funds, held in endowments by Wisconsin's two medical schools. This money represents BCBS's payback to the people of Wisconsin as part of the company's 2001 conversion to a for-profit entity. An Insurance Commissioner Order entrusted \$600 million to the Medical College of Wisconsin and The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, to promote public health and education initiatives that will benefit the people of Wisconsin. However, the recent [Legislative Audit Bureau \(LAB\) Report](#) suggests the medical schools periodically used the funds to benefit their own institutions, rather than the public's health.

WUHF Board Meets August 9!

The Wisconsin United for Health Foundation (WUHF) Board members, over the course of the next week, will draft written questions to both medical schools, to continue the conversation started at this meeting. **Board members are encouraged to identify areas of concern and considerations coming out of the LAB Report**, as well as any other items that may be immediately relevant to the BCBS Conversion Fund conversation. The medical schools, in turn, are requested to respond to each of the questions, in writing, in time for the following WUHF Board meeting. Attend the meeting:

**WUHF Board Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2010
10:30am-1:30pm
Best Western Inn on the Park
Madison, WI**

Email Your Comments!

Weigh in on what the WUHF Board should be asking the two medical schools! [Email your suggestions](#) to the WUHF Board directly! Questions? [Email HealthWatch Wisconsin](#).

Save the Date: FoodShare Outreach Conference!

Join Second Harvest of Wisconsin, together with a statewide network of community partners as they host the first annual FoodShare Outreach Conference!

- **Title:** Swipe Out Hunger: Putting food on your table and money in your community through FoodShare
- **Date:** Friday, September 17, 2010
- **Place:** Radisson's Paper Valley Hotel, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
- **Accommodations:** A block of rooms will be available. Watch for details in upcoming announcements.
- **Time:** 8:00am-3:30pm. Registration opens at approximately 8:00am, conference adjourns by 3:30pm. *Note: The conference will end in time to allow for travel; individuals observing Yom Kippur can arrive home before sundown.*
- **Fee:** Nominal fee to cover meal expenses.
- **Registration:** Watch future newsletters for information on how to register!



Why Attend?

Currently, only an estimated 66% of eligible households participate in FoodShare Wisconsin (formerly known as food stamps), ranking below the national average. FoodShare not only puts healthy, nutritious food on the table for our low-income families, children, and seniors: the USDA estimates that every \$5 spent with FoodShare benefits generates \$9.20 in local economic activity, additional resources that no Wisconsin community can afford to turn away.

On September 17, join the network of public and private community partners throughout the state who are committed to increasing FoodShare enrollment by integrating outreach activities into their daily business without taking on extra projects. Many of us interact with potentially eligible families and individuals every day - we can make them aware of FoodShare, help them access benefits, and break the stigma long associated with "getting food stamps!"

Save the Date: HealthWatch Wisconsin Fall Conference

We're looking ahead to October--Mark your calendar for HealthWatch Wisconsin's:

The Changing Landscape of Insurance after Health Reform

valued at over \$200 including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform," available Fall 2010.

- Access to reduced trainings, workshops, and conferences on health care hot topics, including online trainings through the HWW Training Portal site.
- A voice in a state-wide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin!

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

OCI Bulletin

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has released a new bulletin (June 25) to All Insurers Authorized to do Business in Wisconsin. The bulletin summarizes a whole slew of newly enacted legislation: 2009 Wisconsin Acts 146, 165, 218, 275, 282, 285, 342, 343, 344, 346, and 369. See the summaries [here](#).

Updates from DHS

Operations Memos

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operations 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:

Operations Memo 10-56: Processing Returned/Undeliverable Mail (Released July 20)

New Policy: Wisconsin residency is an eligibility factor for Health Care and Food Share. Since it is residency and not household address that impacts eligibility, agencies must make a valid effort to avoid negatively impacting member's eligibility due to actions taken after receiving undeliverable mail. If mail is returned with a forwarding address in Wisconsin, that address may be used without additional verification. If the mail is returned without a valid forwarding address, the agency must make an effort to learn the address,

a full day of workshops

**Thursday, October 28, 2010
9:00am-4:30pm
Inn on the Park
22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703**



Reduced registration cost will be available for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin!

Join HealthWatch Wisconsin to take advantage of savings throughout the year! Conference sessions will be led by regulators, policy makers, and advocates in Wisconsin, including: Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance Sean Dilweg, representatives from Wisconsin's Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan, Bobby Peterson and attorneys from ABC for Health, members of the Wisconsin Legislature, and more!

HealthWatch Wisconsin will debut its new publication "My Health Reform Guidebook for Wisconsin" at this event! The publication is included FREE for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin!

Continuing education credits will be offered for attorneys, social workers, and other professionals. A light breakfast and lunch and conference CD will be included in your reservation cost! Further details will be released as confirmed. See you in Madison in October!

Looking Closely at the Core Plan Waitlist Bypass for Select Basic Members

Earlier this month, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services issued an Operations Memo explaining a new policy unique to individuals diagnosed with cancer. Ops Memo 10-53 [*Core Plan Waitlist Bypass for Basic Members Diagnosed with Cancer*](#), was published July 9, distributed July 12. The process assumes a series of steps, with movement from the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list, to BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, with the end goal of having full BadgerCare Plus Core Plan coverage. In an earlier edition of the Update, we directed your attention to the Operations Memo. We are re-visiting the memo in this edition of the Update to help clarify the movement among programs.

Wisconsin's limited benefit, buy-in plan, BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, began enrollment on June 1, 2010 for benefits coverage beginning July 1, 2010. Basic is only an option for individuals already on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list. In fact, once someone has enrolled in Basic, they remain on the Core Plan waiting list until invited to apply for Core Plan. Previously, if Core Plan funding became available, individuals on the waitlist would be invited on a first come, first serve basis. There were not any exceptions. Now, any person enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan who is confirmed by a physician to have a diagnosis of any cancer type, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers, will not be subject to the Core Plan enrollment cap. These individuals are eligible to be removed from the waiting list and apply for the Core Plan. If the member is eligible for the Core Plan, she will be enrolled on the next first or fifteenth of the month. But Note: The member must be currently enrolled in the Basic Plan before she can be approved to bypass the waiting list and apply for the Core Plan. To help picture the process, we have created a diagram of some possible steps. View our diagram below, or [CLICK HERE](#) for a printable PDF copy:

including using all existing contact info for the member and other methods, as applicable.

Operations Memo 10-54: Preprinted Mail-In Renewal Forms: CWW Updates (amended July 17)

New Policy: The following clarifications have been added to Ops Memo 10-54: the Summary Page with the Renewal Signature page can be printed at the local agency and mailed to the member. If the cover letter is printed locally, the Renewal Cover Letter will not be automatically generated, and the worker will need to include the manual Renewal Cover Letter with the signature page. Please note that in new FoodShare cases, the date on the Signature Page will set the file date on the new FoodShare request. Interviews are still required for new FoodShare cases and renewals.

Provider Updates

Level of Day Treatment Program Required for Prior Authorization Requests for Child/Adolescent Day Treatment Services

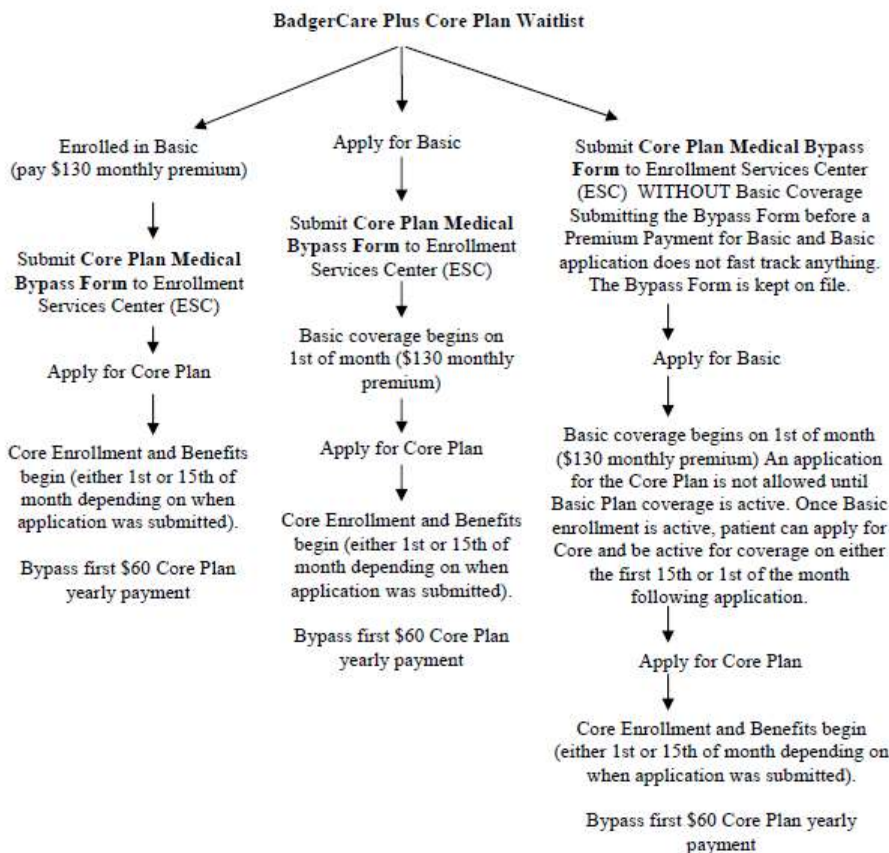
Effective for prior authorization (PA) requests received on and after August 1, 2010, providers are required to indicate the level of day treatment program being requested for PA requests for child/adolescent day treatment services, a HealthCheck "Other Service."

Wisconsin Well Woman Program Training Available

In September and October 2010, the Department of Health Services (DHS) will offer Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWPP) training sessions. These sessions are directed to WWWPP providers; however, local coordinating agency staff can benefit from attending as well. Registration for these sessions is required; however, the DHS does not charge a fee for attending. Online Registration Providers may register online by going to the Portal and accessing the Trainings page in the [Providers area](#). Telephone Registration Cal Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Service Limitation for Outpatient Hospital Visits Withdrawn

This ForwardHealth Update withdraws the service limitation policy for outpatient hospital visits covered under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Adults with No Dependent Children originally published in the December 2009 Update (2009-87), titled "Changes to the Hospital Benefit for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan." The policy limiting outpatient hospital visits to 25 visits per enrollment year for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan members, which became effective for dates of



Happy Birthday, Medicaid & Medicare!

Medicaid & Medicare at 45

July 30 is the 45th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare, the federal health insurance for elderly and persons with disabilities, and persons with end-stage renal disease, as well as the federal and state governments' health insurance programs for persons receiving public assistance. The programs have been the lynchpin of our health system since their 1965 inception.



The Social Security Amendments of 1965 resulted in creation of Medicare and Medicaid. The legislation initially provided federal health insurance for the elderly (over 65) and for families of low income. President Lyndon B. Johnson was responsible for signing the bill, but the effort was spearheaded decades earlier. In 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, medical benefits were left out of the bill. While Roosevelt's administration had hoped to include some sort of "national health care" provisions in the bill, it was entirely eliminated. Harry Truman tried to reclaim the idea of national medical care and tried to integrate it into his Fair Deal program. Truman's attempts were also unsuccessful, though during his presidency the fight for national medical care became specific to the aged population. Fast forward to July 30, 1965: President Johnson, in a partisan political environment, signed the bill making it Public Law 89-97. The signing took place in Independence, Missouri (with Harry S. Truman in the audience). Johnson credited Truman with "planting the seeds of compassion and duty which have today flowered into care for the sick and serenity for the fearful."

Read More on The Anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare Here:

- [Webchat with CMS Administrator Don Berwick](#)
- [Medicare at 45: Health Reform Means New Benefits for Seniors - by Barbara J. Easterling for the Huffington Post, July 29](#)
- ["Happy 45th Birthday, Medicaid and Medicare!," Service Employees' International Union Blog.](#)

service on and after January 1, 2010, has been withdrawn. Providers should follow the policy on outpatient hospital visits that was in place at the implementation of the Core Plan. Outpatient hospital services, including emergency room services, covered under the Core Plan are the same as those covered under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, with the following exceptions: Outpatient substance abuse services are only covered when a physician is the rendering provider; Outpatient mental health services are only covered when the rendering provider is a psychiatrist.

Policy for Coverage of Inpatient Hospital Stays Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

This ForwardHealth Update corrects the policy about coverage of inpatient hospital stays for members enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and clarifies the policy about coverage of inpatient hospital stays for members enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan. Claim adjustments will occur as a result of this policy correction. A hospital stay in an acute care hospital or an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) is not covered by the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan or the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan when the member has a discharge diagnosis of either mental illness or substance abuse. This information corrects statement in the December 2008 ForwardHealth Update (2008-213), titled "Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults," that ForwardHealth would determine coverage based on the member's admission diagnosis. This correction to policy is effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2009.

Links of Interest

Medicaid Primer

The Kaiser Family Foundation has released an updated version of their **Medicaid Primer**, which provides an overview of Medicaid and its components, and now also discusses Medicaid's role in Health Reform. Check out this valuable resource [here](#).

Employee Benefits Security Administration Page

The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), a division of the United States Department of Labor, recently updated their home page. Check it out [here](#).

Kaiser's July Update on Health Disparities

[July 29](#)

- [Securing Medicare's Future - by Kathleen Sebelius, July 29](#)
- [After 45 years, Medicare needs support - by Christine Adams for the *Houston Chronicle*, July 29](#)
- [The Evolution of Medicare, from Idea to Law - by Peter Corning for the Social Security Administration](#)
- [YouTube: "Happy 45th Birthday to Medicaid and Medicare!"](#)
- ["Medicaid and Medicare Turn 45", from "Say Ahhh—A Children's Health Policy Blog"](#)
- ["Happy 45th Birthday, Medicare / Medicaid!" from "Flickr Photo Sharing"](#)
- ["Happy Birthday Medicare!!!" from "Health Care Now!"](#)
- ["Happy Birthday, Medicare -- the Most Popular Kid on the Block!" from "Healthcare" the change.org blog, July 30](#)
- [Medicare's 45th Anniversary: Promises Kept and Promises to Keep, July 29](#)
- [CMS History Project Present Presidents' Speeches](#)

Advanced Directives and End of Life Decisions

Things You Should Know on Making Your Wishes Known

No one wants to think about end of life decisions, but it is vital to make your wishes known. If you do not have an advance directive, and you are incapacitated, no one has the legal authority to make your medical decisions. These critical decisions could be left up to your physician, your spouse, a family member, a close friend, or court-appointed guardian. They may have no idea what you would want or may not be comfortable making these decisions. An advance directive is a written instruction that you create while you are mentally competent that states how you want your health care decisions to be made if you become incapacitated or otherwise cannot express your medical wishes. Wisconsin recognizes two forms of advance directives - the Power of Attorney for Health Care and the Living Will.

The Power of Attorney appoints someone to make health care - all health care decisions, not just life-sustaining ones - decisions for you in the event that you are incapacitated. It is also important to fill out the Power of Attorney for Health Care addendum, which includes a description of your treatment preferences in order to guide the person you've appointed.

A Living Will is more specific, outlining the type of care you want to receive if you develop a terminal illness, find yourself in a persistent vegetative state, or if your major organ systems are shutting down. Remember, the Living Will does not give anyone else the legal right to make health care decisions on your behalf.

Remember, aside from filling one or both of the forms above, the most important things you can do are **tell someone** and **write it down**. If you do not make your wishes known, you are taking a gamble, a gamble that could prolong your suffering and the suffering of those who care about you in the wake of a terrible tragedy.

All of this information and more can be found on the State Bar of Wisconsin website, in their publication, "[A Gift to Your Family: Planning Ahead for Future Health Needs](#)."

For more information on end of life decisions, check out the article "[Letting Go](#)" by Atul Gawande for the *New Yorker*. And for an interesting allegory on end of life decisions by looking at the life of a family pet, check out this *New York Times* article, "[The Vagabond Cat That Came to Stay](#)" by John F. Burns.

Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!

Attention Local Public Health Departments:

Opportunities exist to form new, sustainable HealthWatch Coalitions. ABC for Health, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, and HealthWatch Wisconsin are helping to support a sustainable, inter-connected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care coverage for children. Coalitions are strongly encouraged to include local health departments as the key stakeholder. Your County can create a coalition to develop a sustainable plan to connect and maintain family connections to health coverage, care, and resources.

Getting Started:

Start by identifying community partners and leaders, including representatives from hospital

The Kaiser Family Foundation updated it's free, monthly "Update on Health Disparities" on July 29. This is a "one stop shop" for news coverage from hundreds of print and broadcast news sources related to health and health care issues affecting underserved and racial and ethnic communities. The update also summarizes recent journal articles and other research developments in the field and features a data slide from a relevant Kaiser Family Foundation publication.

Disparities in the News:

[Lawmakers: Extend Medicaid Subsidies to Help African-American Seniors Poverty and HIV are Strongly Linked, CDC Survey Finds](#)
['Mystery Patients' Help Uncover Medical Errors: Doctors Often Fail to Consider Social Factors that Can Affect Treatment, Study Finds](#)
[Activists: Stigma Fuels HIV/AIDS Rates in African-American Community Grant to Help Mitigate Disparities in Dental Care](#)
[Camp Teaches Black and Latino Children to Make Healthy Choices](#)
[Poll: Fewer Opportunities Seen for Minority Kids](#)
[Childhood Obesity in Holyoke, Massachusetts](#)
[New Report Finds High Tobacco Use in LGBT Community](#)
[Black Adults in Wisconsin have Highest Rate of Obesity Among Black Adults in Nation](#)
[Program Talks Sexual Health to Young Latinos](#)
[Resistance to EHRs May Widen Healthcare Disparities](#)
[Poor Breast Cancer Survival in Blacks May Not Be Due to Race](#)

Disparities in Research

[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Dental Care for Publicly Insured Children](#)
[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Response to Direct-to-Consumer Advertising](#)
[Does Socioeconomic Disparity in Cancer Incidence Vary Across Racial/Ethnic Groups?](#)
[Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among American Indians in Arizona: An Important Public Health Disparity](#)

Disparities Data Spotlight

[Percent of Non-Elderly Who Report Being Tested for HIV by Race/Ethnicity, 2009](#)

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Fall 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a

systems, Head Start, parents, Birth-to-3 Coordinators, public health nurses, economic support workers, school nurses and counselors, advocates, employers, and members of the faith community. Then, watch for an RFP! The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and HealthWatch Wisconsin will issue a call for proposals to invite coalitions to compete for funding. We will prioritize coalition development for low-enrollment, under-performing or health disparity locations across Wisconsin. In fact, HealthWatch Wisconsin will prioritize coalition development where local health departments take a leading role. After funding, HealthWatch Wisconsin will continue to help with ongoing technical consultation and leadership training. We will be looking for areas that can DEVELOP and SUSTAIN a coalition, after the start-up assistance is complete.

Have questions or want more information at this time? Contact [Bryne](#) at ABC for Health (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

Feedback from Subscribers!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update staff appreciates hearing from our readers! Thank you to all of you who have emailed and called with comments, ideas and suggestions over the last several years. We were especially grateful for Rhonda's feedback, sent July after reading the July 15 Update newsletter. We asked if we could share it with all of you!

ABC for Health,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I can't even begin to say thank you enough for the information that you provide in the HealthWatch updates, specifically the most recent edition. There was a small side note regarding Operations Memo 10-53: Core Plan Waitlist Bypass for Basic Members Diagnosed with Cancer, that caught my eye. I highlighted the Memo just in case because you never know when you might need that kind of information. It became ironically important the very next day when I had a patient call me up presenting this exact scenario!

I can't tell you how wonderful it was to have an option to present to her during this difficult time that did not involve an overwhelming waitlist!

Keep up the great work! I appreciate everything you all do

Rhonda Stuart,
Case Manager/Access Worker
Northern Health Centers, Inc.

Have some feedback for us? Don't be shy! Positive or negative, the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update staff wants to hear from you! Please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#). We will ask for permission before including anything in future editions of the Update, and reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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 in the sidebar if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.

Tri-County HealthWatch met Tuesday, July 27! The meeting had a healthy attendance and went smoothly. The Tri-County HealthWatch Coalition is now interested in working with ABC for Health to bring a training to the Fox Valley. Please contact [Susan Garcia-Franz](#) if you would be interested in attending a training in that area.

Dane County HealthWatch gathered on a hot, steamy July 15th to watch the Madison Mallards obliterate the Battle Creek Bombers in a 6-2 victory. Coalition members joined the staff of ABC for Health for a barbeque cookout before the game. [Click Here](#) to view a slide show of the evening! The Coalition will gather Monday, August 2nd where Guest Speakers: Katie Sepnieski and Bill Murray, DHS Division of Long Term Care will introduce themselves and their office; discuss the Autism Waiver and related issues such as screening and procedures; and answer questions from the Coalition membership. For more information, please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#). While this meeting is at the usual location (2202 South Park Street), Dane County HealthWatch may be moving its meeting place from its long-time home at the Harambee Center after the summer - stay tuned for more details on this potential development.

Barron County HealthWatch gave a successful presentation on BadgerCare Plus and the Core Plan's relationship to COBRA for the Workforce Resource Office in Rice Lake on July 21. **Polk County HealthWatch** will be doing a similar presentation at their August 12 meeting.

CASE TIP: Hearing Instruments and Services Now Covered Under



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 applications, verifications, etc.

dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)

dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov
- Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiES with advocate questions.

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:

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

Previous Issues of the Update:

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

the BC+ Benchmark Plan

Effective August 1, 2010, hearing instruments and related services will be covered under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan for members 17 years of age and younger. This includes the following items and services:

- Hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, accessories, and repairs (including repairs to hearing aids purchased prior to coverage by the Benchmark Plan);
- Bone-anchored hearing aids (BAHA), BAHA surgeries, accessories, and repairs;
- Cochlear implants, implant surgeries, accessories, and repairs.

Details of covered services, prior authorization requirements and approval criteria are highlighted in a [Provider Update](#) and the Online Handbook, available on the [ForwardHealth Portal](#). In short, the coverage policies and prior authorization (PA) requirements and approval criteria for hearing instruments and services under the Benchmark Plan will be the same as they are under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan. Of particular interest to many members 17 years of age and younger, the Benchmark Plan covers up to a maximum of 60 speech language pathology therapy service visits over a 20-week period following BAHA or cochlear implant surgery. These visits **do not** count toward the Benchmark Plan service limitation of 20 visits per enrollment for each therapy discipline. Finally, the Benchmark Plan reimburses up to \$2,500.00 for durable medical equipment per member per enrollment year. Hearing aid repairs are subject to the reimbursement limitation. The following items are not subject to the reimbursement limitation:

- Bone-anchored hearing aids.
- Cochlear implants.
- Hearing aids, hearing aid batteries, and accessories.

Case Tip: Attesting to Identity/Citizenship

When it at first seems impossible to verify citizenship for an individual admitted to a hospital who has arrived without a birth certificate, there may be a way to help. The Medicaid Handbook suggests that individuals in "institutional care facilities" such as skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, hospitals, and a few select other sites may have their identity attested to by the facility director or administrator when nothing else is available. This is largely an issue when an individual is in a hospital or facility without access to paperwork or files she may have at home. Consider using the [F-10175 State of Identity for Persons In Institutional Care Facilities](#) form for this purpose.

One can imagine a situation might arise when an individual has other limitations that prevent documentation from being readily available. The Medicaid Handbook addresses "special populations" of people where incapacitation or religious beliefs, for example, prevent proof of identity. There is a separate form to guide this process. Examples of individuals in special populations include, but are not limited to, persons who:

- Are physically or mentally incapacitated and whose condition renders them unable to provide necessary documentation.
- Are chronically homeless and whose living arrangement makes it extremely difficult to provide the necessary documentation.
- Are minors.
- Have religious beliefs that prevent them from securing the documentation.

The newly developed Statement of Citizenship and/or Identity for Special Populations form ([F-10161](#)) can be used to meet the new requirement only when no other documentation is available. This form can be completed by a related or unrelated individual who knows the applicant/member, an authorized representative, an IM Agency worker, a worker for a housing agency who is aware of the individual's living situation, a Medicaid provider for a minor , etc.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■
Covering Kids with Special Needs

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.

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.

[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!**

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!](#)

Contact Us



Mark Your Calendars Now Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Expanding Health Care Access for Underserved Populations - Wednesday, August 25, 2010**, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. By the Wisconsin Hospital Association - check out the brochure [here](#). More registration information should be available soon.
- **Care in the Community Conference - Wednesday, September 22, 2010**. Radisson Hotel, Wauwatosa, WI. A conference to provide families and providers who care for children and youth with special health care needs with the information and tools they need. For more information, see www.maxishare.com/conferences
- **Midwest Autism Conference - October 10-12, 2010**. La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Join the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education Department and Chileda, Inc. for a comprehensive conference covering strategies that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum in school, home, and treatment environments. For more information, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/mac/> or call Karen Langaard to register, 1-866-895-9233.

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](#)

Wisconsin's Department of Health Services has released a new Maternal Child Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs [UPDATE](#)

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Racial disparities found throughout organ transplant process](#) - by Shawn Doherty for the *Capital Times*, July 30
- [Secondhand smoke exposure among highest in nation for state youths](#) - by Alicia Yager for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 29
- [Rate for Brown County residents without health insurance better than state's](#) - by Paul Srubas for the *Green Bay Press Gazette*, July 28
- [Brown County uninsured rate at 9%](#) - for the *Business Journal of Milwaukee*, July 28
- [Drugs easy to find, but treatment scarce in rural Wisconsin](#) - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 27
- [Business health group saving costs](#) - for the *Business Journal of Milwaukee*, July 27
- [Blog: ER Wait Times Up; Satisfaction Still High](#) - by Corrinne Hess for the *Business Journal of Milwaukee*, July 26
- [Autism in kids more prevalent among wealthier parents, study finds](#) - by Tia Ghose for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, July 23
- [Fast-food-free zones suggested to combat obesity](#) - by Shawn Doherty for the *Capital Times*, July 22
- [UnitedHealth Explains Soaring Profits](#) - by Corrinne Hess for the *Business Journal of*

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

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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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If you know someone who might be interested, please Forward this Newsletter >>

[Milwaukee, July 21](#)

- [Wisconsin Supreme Court rules in favor of Wisconsin Medical Society - for the *Post Crescent*, July 20](#)
- [Racial gap in infant mortality rate returns - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, July 18](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Commonwealth Fund analysis highlights benefits for women in health-care overhaul - by Amy Goldstein for the *Washington Post*, July 30](#)
- [Abortion groups caught off guard - by Sarah Kliff for *Politico*, July 30](#)
- [High-Risk Health Insurance Pool Rules Bar Abortions, Limit Patient Costs - by Phil Galewitz for *Kaiser Health News*, July 29](#)
- [Support For Health Law Remains Steady While Opposition Drops - by Lexie Verdon for *Kaiser Health News*, July 29](#)
- [Healthcare law has more doctors teaming up - by Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Tribune*, July 28](#)
- [Health Law Augurs Transfer of Funds From Old to Young - by Janet Adamy for the *Wall Street Journal*, July 25](#)
- [McDermott touts healthy return of health care's 'public option' - by Kyung M. Song for the *Seattle Times*, July 23](#)
- [New rules make it easier for public to appeal denials of health insurance claims - by Phil Galewitz and Michelle Andrews for the *Washington Post*, July 22](#)
- [Health care choices fall to states - by Jennifer Haberkorn for *Politico*, July 22](#)
- [Press Release: Administration Announces New Affordable Care Act Measures to Protect Consumers and Put Patients Back in Charge of Their Care - Department of Health and Human Services, July 22](#)
- [Proposed deficit remedy: the healthcare 'public option' - by Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Times*, July 21](#)
- [State rules clash with health pools - by Sarah Kliff for *Politico*, July 20](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: Gazing Into CBO's Budget and Health Care Crystal Ball - by James C. Capretta for *Kaiser Health News*, July 29](#)
- [Op-Ed: The ER myth: no, health care law won't cure this ailment - by Marc Siegel for *USA Today*, July 27](#)
- [Op-Ed: Where Are the Innovators in Health Care Delivery? - by John Goodman for *Kaiser Health News*, July 26](#)
- [Op-Ed: Unsafe at Any Meal - by Eric Schlosser for the *New York Times*, July 24](#)
- [Editorial: Hospital tax gains hit by circumstances - for the *Post Crescent*, July 22](#)
- [Blog: Who Stands To Gain From Health Reform? - by Chris Fleming for the *Health Affairs Blog*, July 22](#)
- [Op-Ed: Despite Parity Law, Mental Health Coverage May Fall Short - by Kate Steadman for *Kaiser Health News*, July 21](#)
- [Op-Ed: When Bad News About Health Reform Isn't Bad - by Jonathan Cohn for *Kaiser Health News*, July 19](#)
- [Op-Ed: End the 'doc fix' - for the *Chicago Tribune*, July 19](#)
- [Editorial: Reform Moves Ahead - for the *New York Times*, July 18](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [Public Employees Get More Benefits - by Sara Murray for the *Wall Street Journal*, July 28](#)
- [Census data reveal broad differences among states in rates of uninsured - by Lena H. Sun for the *Washington Post*, July 28](#)
- [Agents want piece of health reform pie - by Jennifer Haberkorn for *Politico*, July 27](#)
- [Uninsured to get affordable coverage by 2014 - by Suzanne Holholik for the *Columbus Dispatch*, July 26](#)
- [Some insurers stop writing new coverage for kids - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Associated Press*, July 24](#)
- [U.S. Chamber to launch website for businesses to air health reform grievances - by Mike Lillis for *The Hill*, July 20](#)

- [Kids and Dental Health : Rising Costs and Struggling State Programs a Dangerous Mix](#) - by Blaire Briody for the *Fiscal Times*, July 20
- [Lawmakers: Extend Medicaid Subsidies To Help African-American Seniors](#) - by Phil Galewitz for *Kaiser Health News*, July 20
- [Cuts in Home Care Put Elderly and Disabled at Risk](#) - by John Leland for the *New York Times*, July 16
- [Changing Stance, Administration Now Defends Insurance Mandate as a Tax](#) - by Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, July 16
- [Council Cuts Plan That Helped Poor People](#) - by Anemona Hartocollis for the *New York Times*, July 8

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