



## The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

December 15, 2010

Vol. 6 No. 23

### HealthWatch Wisconsin

*A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.*

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

#### To Print:

Want to print this newsletter and read it later? Access an easy-to-print version [HERE](#).

### Donate Today:

**We need your help!**

Your year-end donation will go a long way. Every year, HealthWatch Wisconsin helps connect health care professionals to timely information and valuable resources. Thanks to the support of its members, HealthWatch Wisconsin has been able to provide educational trainings, both live and on-demand to help improve the landscape of health care in our state. Today, with rules and provisions in constant flux, HealthWatch's role is more critical than ever. Thank you for considering a donation to HealthWatch Wisconsin and remember, your support is vital to keeping our state informed!

Donate



#### In This Issue:

### Happy Holidays from HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The past year exemplified growth and change for HealthWatch Wisconsin. Together, we increased our membership, developed innovative teaching and training methods, distributed a brand new publication "My Health Reform Guidebook" and honored Wisconsinites doing great work in health care advocacy. We worked in rural Wisconsin, in the heart of the cities and at the state Capitol. We can all be proud of our many accomplishments achieved through partnerships, sweat, and much hard work.



In 2011, HealthWatch Wisconsin will focus its attention on duties that will help protect and grow Wisconsin's health care system. Together, with our local coalitions and dedicated partners, we will continue to persevere to see the day when all people in Wisconsin will have access to appropriate, affordable and comprehensive health care coverage. HealthWatch Wisconsin's advocacy and educational outreach will be there to make sure families and individuals are connected to the care they need and deserve.

We look forward to our future and all the great accomplishments ahead for HealthWatch Wisconsin. **Happy New Year!**

*Please remember, the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update will not be emailed on January 1st. Please watch for the next edition on January 15th.*

### Register Today: 2011 HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference

[Register Online](#) -or- [Print a Registration Form](#)

Join the staff of ABC for Health and HealthWatch Wisconsin for the Fourth Annual Conference, **"Health Reform: New Directions?"** March 7 & 8, 2011 at Madison's Inn on the Park.

The Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference will explore the latest on:

- Health Reform Implementation with Wisconsin Policy Makers
- Programs for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- The New Administration Plans for Health Care in Wisconsin
- Advocacy Strategies for Wisconsin's Health Care Consumers
- The Future of Medicaid, Appeals Processes & Health Literacy
- And More!



It's your **last chance** to nominate someone for a HealthWatch Award! [CLICK](#)

**Happy Holidays from HealthWatch Wisconsin!**

**Register Today: 2011 HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference**

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**NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin**

**NEWS: Health Care Reform**

**NEWS: Opinion**

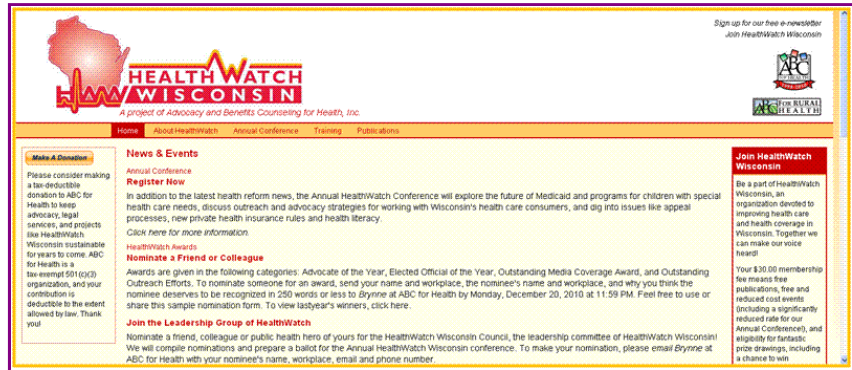
**NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access**

**HERE to learn more!**

**Discounts** for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin and groups are available. Visit the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Website](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org) to share your workshop ideas, nominate individuals for the Annual HealthWatch Awards, nominate professionals for the HealthWatch Council and more!

**HealthWatch Wisconsin Debuts New Website!**

It's easier than ever to join HealthWatch Wisconsin, subscribe to the Update newsletter, view publications and training content and more. On Wednesday, December 15, login to [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org) (or click on the image below) to view our new site! Give us feedback! Tell us what you like or what's missing by [e-mailing the HealthWatch Staff](mailto:info@healthwatchwisconsin.org).



**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](mailto:mike_rust@barroncountymn.org) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

**Chippewa:** January 11, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact [Rose Marsh](mailto:rose_marsh@chippewacountywi.gov) or 1-800-400-3678 with questions.

**Dane:** January 10, 9:00-11:00am. **Waisman Community Outreach Center, 122 E Olin Ave, Ste 100, Madison, WI 53713.** Contact [Adam VanSpankeren](mailto:adam_vanspankeren@waisman.org) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 with questions.

**Dunn:** TBD. 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact [Patrick Rebman](mailto:patrick_rebman@cedar-rapids.com) or (715) 233-7309 with questions.

**Eau Claire:** TBD, 2010, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact [Lou Kelsey](mailto:lou_kelsey@lutherhospital.com) or (715) 834-4455 or [Pat Perkins](mailto:pat_perkins@lutherhospital.com) or (715) 839-4718

**Grants Awarded for New HealthWatch Coalitions!**

**Congratulations, Pierce County and Tri-County HealthWatch Coalitions!**



Following a competitive RFP process, HealthWatch Wisconsin is pleased to announce that new grants have been awarded to start or enhance HealthWatch Coalitions across Wisconsin. ABC for Health, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services and HealthWatch Wisconsin are helping to support a sustainable, interconnected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care coverage for children. In this first round of funding, Pierce and Tri-County HealthWatch Coalitions presented compelling proposals to gather community stakeholders, engage in meaningful activities, conversations and education around access to health care and coverage, and sustain their efforts into the future. The Staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin looks forward to working with these Coalitions going forward. Please help us welcome Pierce and Tri-County HealthWatch Coalitions to the [growing list](#) of Coalitions across Wisconsin!

**Save BadgerCare Coalition Connects with Healthcare Consumers**

Help Preserve and Protect BadgerCare Programs and Eligibility in Wisconsin! As the leadership and priorities change in the coming months, advocates and policymakers are working together to preserve state health benefits for Wisconsin



with questions.

**Milwaukee:** January 12, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Nora Foshager](#) or call (414) 416-1816 with any 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:** TBD, 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. Jan 25 at 9:00am at Goodwill Community Center, 1814 N Appleton Road, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) or [Connie Raether](#) for more information.

#### **Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!**

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Complete and return our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events. Individual memberships are \$30; organizational memberships are \$120.

Joining or renewing your HWW membership today gives you: access to 12 publications valued at over \$200 including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform," access to reduced trainings, workshops and conferences on health care hot topics including online trainings through *HWW On-Demand* and a voice in a statewide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin. The membership year runs July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

**Questions?** Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608) 261-6939 ext. 204.

individuals and families. It's not too late to join with our Sign Up Form, [CLICK HERE](#). Is someone missing from the discussion? [E-mail HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) with additional recommendations for those to be invited to join the Coalition.

#### **Save BadgerCare Coalition In the News:**

- [Coalition Worries Incoming Republican Leaders Put BadgerCare at Risk - by Liz Welter for the Wausau Daily Herald, Dec. 12](#)
- [Vital Signs: Advocates form Coalition to Save Public Health Program - by Shawn Doherty for the Capital Times, Dec. 6](#)
- [In Our Backyard, WORT Radio, Dec. 6 \(The story starts at minute 9:15 and runs to 14:38.\)](#)
- [GOP puts BadgerCare, Federal Health Care Law in the Cross Hairs - by Mary Spicuzza for the Wisconsin State Journal, Dec. 2](#)

#### **Mark Your Calendar:**

The next meeting of the Coalition is **December 20 from 1:00-2:30pm** at the WCCC Offices, 555 West Washington Ave., Suite 200, Madison, WI. Can't make it in person? Join us by teleconference: 1-866-274-6951 (Passcode: 7742688#).

#### **PBS NewsHour Visits Wisconsin**

Health Correspondent [Betty Ann Bowser](#) of the [PBS NewsHour](#) traveled to Wisconsin to examine the dramatic change of administration and legislature--and what it means for Wisconsin families who depend on Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus programs for services. In time for her Dec. 6 arrival to Madison, the PBS Newshour Producer Sarah Clune contacted ABC for Health, Sen. Fitzgerald, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Richards, Pamela Herd (UW-Madison), and numerous families and individuals enrolled in BadgerCare Plus programs to get a good sense of the changing dynamic. Betty Ann and Sarah took in the second meeting of the "Save BadgerCare Coalition" while visiting, capturing conversation of dedicated advocates and learning the value--financial and otherwise--of preserving and protecting BadgerCare Plus eligibility and programs. The PBS NewsHour's piece on Health Care in Wisconsin is set to air soon! Watch your local listings.



#### **Wisconsin Awarded for Health Care Advancements**

In 2008, Wisconsin's [BadgerCare Plus](#) enrolled 40,000 applicants in the start of its program, which continued to insure 270,000 additional residents through 2009. The program's flexibility from state to state won Wisconsin the "Innovation Award" from the Council on State Government earlier this month. In addition, Wisconsin was the only state to receive honorable mention in the Stockholm Challenge, an international awards program that recognized [ACCESS.wisconsin.gov](#) for its ability to utilize information and communication technology to improve the lives of others. "In these challenging economic times, we continue to look for innovative ideas to contain costs and lessen the burden on the state budget," said Karen Timberlake, Secretary of the Department of Health Services. "Wisconsin is proud to be a national leader in access to health care while continuing to provide more efficient, high quality services to its citizens." [Read the press release](#) from the Department.

#### **Enrollment Numbers**

- Enrollment in Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus increased by 29 percent from December 2008 to December 2009 (an increase in 166,000 enrollees).
- Employer-provided health insurance coverage in Wisconsin, for both workers and their dependents, declined in 2008 and held steady at 68.8 percent in 2009.
- The proportion of Wisconsin residents under age 65 without any health

insurance coverage increased from 2007 to 2008 from 9.3 percent to 11.0 percent and then after a slight dip, remained steady in 2009 at 10.9 percent.

## Links of Interest

The Legislative Council Study Committees will continue to meet in the coming months. We will be tracking the meeting agendas and minutes at the Update. Check in here from time to time to see when the next meeting is and what is developing.

[Interim Study Committee on Health Reform Implementation](#)

Next Meeting: TBA

[Interim Study Committee on Access to Health Care](#)

Next Meeting: January 7

[Interim Study Committee on Infant Mortality](#)

Next Meeting: December 16

[Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51](#)

Next Meeting: January 24

The **Office of the Commissioner of Insurance** has several announcements:

A New Website has been Unveiled! [Click Here](#) to visit OCI Online

The next OCI Federal Health Reform Update Meeting is January 11, 2011, from 1:00pm–2:30pm, 125 S. Webster St. Room 227

**America's Health Rankings** recently released national health statistics ranking Wisconsin as **18th** in the U.S. (down from 11th just last year.) See a list of comprehensive data [here](#). Read the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) article on Wisconsin's dip in the rankings.

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** recently released a report on health insurance coverage and utilization in the United States, comparing 2006-9 and 2010. Read the report, [here](#).

## Updates from DHS

**DHS has released updated versions of its BadgerCare Plus, Access, and Medicaid Eligibility Handbooks!**

Here is a link to the [BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#) version 10-04; and to the

[Read more statistics](#) compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services or these other sources:

Beginning of recession: [National Bureau of Economic Research](#). Business Cycle Dating Committee report

Unemployment rates: [Seasonally Adjusted Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#).

## BadgerCare Plus Hero Awards

In a lovely ceremony on December 15 at the state capitol, advocates, agencies and organizations were honored and personally thanked by Governor Doyle for assistance in educating and enrolling Wisconsin children and families in BadgerCare Plus programs. ABC for Health's Bobby Peterson gave opening remarks and introduced Governor Doyle at the event. BadgerCare Plus Hero Award Winners were each thanked and presented with a plaque. Everyone gathered around the Governor for a group photo! (Pictured, *Medicaid Director Jason Helgerson poses for a photo with ABC for Health staff and students at the state capitol.*)



To conclude the ceremony, members of the BadgerCare Plus Advisors Committee were presented with certificates of commendation, on behalf of the people of the state of Wisconsin, in recognition of dedicated service and significant efforts in helping Wisconsin families and children gain access to BadgerCare Plus and other needed programs. Congratulations to all!

## Wisconsin Public Health Council Joins the BCBS Conversation

On Friday, December 10, the Wisconsin Public Health Council discussed the administration and oversight of the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) conversion funds. The oversight of these funds came under scrutiny earlier this year when the Legislative Audit Bureau raised concerns about the funds' management. The LAB report questioned whether the medical schools, who oversee the conversion funds as the result of a 2000 Insurance Commissioner Order, were spending the funds as the Order intended.



The Public Health Council discussed recommendations to the Wisconsin medical schools, discussing two at length. They started with a recommendation that asks Wisconsin's two medical schools to provide a majority of available funds to community based public health projects.

The second recommendation of the Public Health Council asks the medical schools to eliminate the requirement that a faculty member be a part of every grant distributed from the public health funds to community groups. The Council recommends the medical schools lift their requirement that a faculty member be involved in all funded public health projects.

"The emphasis needs to be on supporting funding in our communities," commented Bobby Peterson, director of ABC for Health, providing testimony at the Council meeting. "We must hold the Medical Schools accountable to the people of Wisconsin. The Public Health Council took a step forward toward achieving that end." The minutes and letter of recommendation adopted at this meeting are forthcoming.

## Digging Into Health Reform: Small Business Health



listed [changes](#), effective October 1. Please click here to see the [Access Handbook](#) version 10-05; and its listed [changes](#), effective November 8. And lastly, please click here to see the [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook](#), version 10-04; and its listed [changes](#), effective December 7.

## Operations Memos

[Ops Memo 10-83](#) Process Changes for Central Processing of Newborn Adds (*released December 8*)

**New Policy:** The process for enrolling newborns who are reported by HMOs, hospitals, and other authorized health care providers when the mother was enrolled in BadgerCare Plus at the time of birth, has changed. The reason was to ensure that the newborn can be enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as a Continuously Eligible Newborn. The changes are effective December 15 for Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Racine and Kenosha Counties. The rest of the state will adhere to the new processing rule as of January 3, 2011. Please see the Case Tip for more information!

[Ops Memo 10-82](#) CARES Security Changes (*amended December 9, originally released November 22*)

**New Policy:** Processing of CARES security requests have changed, now residing within the Department of Health Services. As of November 22, three personnel transferred from the Department of Children and Families to DHS.

## Provider Updates:

[WIC Agencies May Now Be Medicaid-Certified to Be Reimbursed for Blood Lead Testing Services](#)

[Changes to Pharmacy Policies Occurring in December 2010](#)

[Changes to Coverage, Daily Rate, and Billing Instructions for Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Pumps](#)

[Reminders Regarding Use of Unlisted, Not Otherwise Classified, Procedure Codes](#)

[Note Field Enhancement for Most](#)

## Care Tax Credit

After the March 2010 implementation of the Affordable Care Act, over 88,970 Wisconsin businesses and tax-exempt organizations received information from the IRS about a [health care tax credit](#) that could be used toward the cost of health insurance policies. On December 2, 2010, [additional guidance](#) was issued by the IRS, helping to clarify health reform's implementation of this tax credit, including topics like: eligibility requirements, filing process, and transition details through 2014.

### Who is eligible?

- In order [to be eligible](#), small for-profit and non-profit businesses would have to maintain a "qualifying arrangement," in which the employer contributes no less than 50 percent of the employee's health care premium.
- [Non-profit businesses](#) are eligible to claim for a 25 percent credit for 2010-2013, increasing to 35 percent in 2014.
- Qualifying [for-profit businesses](#), need to have fewer than 25 full-time employees (or full time equivalent) whose average annual taxable wages are less than \$50,000. Small businesses are eligible for a 35 percent tax credit in 2010-2013, increasing up to 50 percent in 2014, in which they can claim for 2 years afterwards. Curious of the savings? Try the "[Tax Credit Calculator](#)"
- The credit is claimed on the employer's tax return as a "general business credit," and any unused portion of the credit can be carried over for up to 20 years.

### What does this mean for Wisconsin workers?

The 35 percent credit and 50 percent credit is offered to employer premium contribution towards health care plans purchased through an exchange, or qualified health plan that is equal to the average cost of health insurance in Wisconsin. Starting in 2014, small businesses with fewer than 100 employees will be able to purchase health insurance through [Wisconsin's Insurance Exchange](#).

## 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.



**Dane County HealthWatch** met on Monday, December 6 and welcomed Bob Hunt of the Disability Determination Bureau as a guest speaker. Bob outlined the process for getting a disability determination, explained prior authorization for disability determinations, reported key numbers and facts, and answered the questions of the coalition members. He presented a handout, which can be found [here](#). Bob Hunt also announced that he is retiring this month. Dane County HealthWatch wishes him well in all future endeavors. The Dane County HealthWatch Coalition also encouraged all of its members to bring canned goods or other non-perishables to donate for the holiday season, and everyone came through in fine style, donating more than 30 pounds of food to the Goodman Community Center. Next month's meeting has been moved to January 10, 2011 but is still going to be held at the new location on 122 E Olin Avenue. Dane County HealthWatch has invited someone from the Enrollment Services Center to speak. Questions or comments can be directed to [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

**The Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition** met last Wednesday for the final meeting of 2010. Mandy Freimann and Ruthie Burich of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) gave a presentation on the prevention services offered at ARCW. In addition, meeting participants discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference, the Core Plan Waitlist Medical Bypass for Basic Members, the Save BadgerCare Coalition, and the transition of the coalition to the new co-chairs and steering committee beginning in January 2011. Thank you to all those who gave time this year as steering committee members and collaborating advisors, and especially to outgoing co-chairs Ginger Dzick (United HealthCare) and Kari Lerch (Community

### [Claims Submitted Electronically](#)

### [Certain Ophthalmological Examinations Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan](#)

### [Diabetic Supply Policy Changes](#)

### [Quantity Limits for Child Care Coordination Services Effective January 2011](#)

### [Changes to BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Copayments and Service Limitations](#)

## Visitation Rights for Patients on Medicaid

Patient visitation, in hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs), can often be limiting, especially when a loved one needs it the most. On November 19, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services established final guidelines within existing "conditions of participation" regarding visitation rights, dissolving the traditional definition of "family" and broadening permission in order to accommodate a basic human necessity. Effective January 18, 2011, hospitals and CAHs are now obligated to:

Provide documentation and inform patient (or representative) of visitation rights, including restrictions and limitations that are deemed "clinically necessary," such as those that would disrupt a patient and/or the treatment of other patients, interfere with rest, privacy, or regulation of infection.

Advise patient (or representative) of his/her permission to choose visitors and withdraw consent at any time. Although not limited, visitors may include a family member, friend, domestic partner, and/or spouse.

Prohibit restrictions based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Although CAHs are allotted flexibility in determining restrictions and limitations deemed "clinically necessary," the recent provisions of "conditions of participation" now provide specific, consistent standards within hospitals and CAHs. To view the complete

Advocates)! For more information on the Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition, please contact [Nora Foshager](#).

**The Tri County HealthWatch Coalition** met on November 28. Renee Ladewig-Lathrop gave an update on the diabetes issue that Tri County HealthWatch has been tracking - specifically, that the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan only covers adult insulin, which is generally not recommended for children. If any other coalitions are tracking this issue, please contact [Renee Ladewig-Lathrop](#) of United Healthcare. The next Tri County HealthWatch Coalition meeting will be January 25 and will focus on brainstorming ideas for the future of the coalition. For more information e-mail [Susan Garcia Franz](#).

**The Dunn County HealthWatch Coalition** had a luncheon on December 2, where Tim Hoel and Deb Bruning, prevention coordinators for the Arbor Place, Inc, gave a power point presentation on the harmful effects of alcoholism in Wisconsin and opportunities for improvement and prevention. The next Dunn County HealthWatch Coalition meeting will be February 9. For more information, please email [Wendy MacDougall](#).

## Case Tip: New Route for "Adding a Baby" to BadgerCare Plus

For this Edition's "Case Tip," we go "behind the scenes" of how newborns are added to BadgerCare Plus (or Medicaid). The process is not simple: information about the baby is entered into multiple computer systems, including CARES and InterChange.

**What you need to know: the steps advocates, health benefit counselors, hospital staff, and social workers take to add a baby has not changed.** The policy changes affect communications between HP staff and the Enrollment Service Center staff regarding the "behind the scenes" after a baby is born to a mother on BadgerCare Plus. Here is a summary:

The change affects the process for enrolling newborns (born to mothers enrolled in BadgerCare Plus) who are reported by HMOs, hospitals, and other authorized health care providers. The reason for the change was to ensure that the newborn is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as a Continuously Eligible Newborn as soon as possible. The [Operations Memo 10-83 "Process Changes for Central Processing of Newborn Adds"](#) is effective December 15 for Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Racine and Kenosha Counties. The rest of the state will adhere to the new processing rule as of January 3, 2011.

**Old Rule:** Typically, when a baby was born to a woman enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid, the baby was reported to the Department of Health Service's Medicaid Fiscal Agent (HP), where a Medicaid ID number was assigned to the newborn using CARES. That ID was then used to certify the newborn's eligibility within InterChange (the computer system that allows the baby's information to appear in Forward Health Portal).

**New Policy:** HP staff will enter information about a new baby in CARES and complete required pages before confirming eligibility for BadgerCare Plus. HP will then hand off the case to the DHS staff at the Enrollment Services Center to be reviewed, completed and confirmed. The point of this step is to ensure the newborn's eligibility and enrollment gets processed timely in CARES and the baby is assigned to the mother's HMO. Enrollment Center Staff have 3 days to confirm receipt of the "newborn report" from HP, or the notices are not considered "timely."

**Sticky Situations:** What if the mother is on BadgerCare Plus only through Express Enrollment--which would mean she is technically enrolled, but not an active CARES case? (This would happen when a full application has not yet been completed.) In such a situation, the HP staff will create a new "request for assistance" in CARES with the mother as the primary person, and then process the application using all the information they have to complete the required pages (all their information will come from the InterChange entries and newborn report.) What if the newborn lives apart

document, click [here](#).

## 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 cover letter and resume to [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto: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 (MiIES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiIES), 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](mailto:dhsmls@wisconsin.gov) - for new applications, verifications, etc.

[dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov) - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)

[dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov)

- Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiIES with advocate questions.

from the mother due to a pending adoption or foster care placement? Then, the baby is the primary person on the "request for assistance" and the rest of the information is supplemented by only the "newborn report."

## Advanced Case Tip: Obtaining Durable Medical Equipment (DME) when Fee For Service (FFS)

For individuals on Medicaid and enrolled in an HMO, the process for obtaining Durable Medical Equipment/Medical Supplies and Equipment begins with the HMO seeking pre-approval from the insurance provider for the desired in-home tools and devices to assist that patient.

However, for Medicaid recipients not receiving insurance through an HMO, meaning they are "fee-for-service" Medicaid recipients, the process begins by finding the contracted Medicaid DME provider in your area. Start with contacting "Member Services" (1-800-362-3002) to get some idea of which DME providers are in your area.

After you have explained the type of medical equipment needed, the contracted provider will contact your doctor to obtain a copy of the prescription for DME. The contracted DME provider may file a prior authorization with Medicaid. This process, however, can take 4-6 weeks to process. Consider requesting loaned or rental equipment from your doctor or clinic while the request is in processing.

For example, wheelchairs and walkers are offered by many physical therapy and home health services as well as from Independent Living Centers around the state. Once the prior authorizations are approved, a patient will be called and a delivery will be scheduled.

## Grapevine: The Evolution of Medicaid, 2011 and Beyond



Significant changes are ahead for Medicaid and Badger Care in Wisconsin Medicaid/BadgerCare. Our state's population is still rising as the state remains mired in the grip of increased joblessness. Our population is also aging and employer sponsored coverage is less available. Health reform proposes a major expansion in Medicaid enrollment in 2014 that includes single and childless low income adults. What will happen to Medicaid down the road? What policy consideration should we prioritize?

In December, the Center for Health Care Strategies President Stephen A. Somers identified and analyzed key priority areas for improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care and Medicaid. The priorities are outlined here:

1. *Facilitate access to coverage for 16-20 million new beneficiaries.* Focus on ensuring benefit and plan continuity; balancing benefits and state fiscal capacity; and developing the structural interface between Medicaid and the exchanges.
2. *Understand the care needs of the Medicaid expansion population.* Analyze and rapidly assess the physical and behavioral health needs of the new influx of beneficiaries.
3. *Develop health homes for Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic conditions.* Establish health homes to serve as integrated, coordinated systems of care for adults and children with complex needs, including the newly eligible expansion population with more intense health care needs.
4. *Leverage primary care payment increases.* Design strategies for maximizing the primary care rate increase to expand and maintain the Medicaid provider network; link enhanced reimbursement to access and quality standards; and sustain rate increases beyond 2014.
5. *Reform payment strategies.* Maximize Medicaid's tremendous purchasing leverage by rethinking payment methodologies and realigning financing to support improved models of care.
6. *Integrate care for the duals.* Advance broad-scale integration of services and financing for the nation's growing dual eligible population to

### 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!](#)

### 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**

enhance quality and control costs.

The Center for Health Care Strategies launched a new website: [Health Reform Implementation Resources](#) as an online library of resources for Medicaid stakeholders. Take a look! These are just some ideas, though! Everyone's experiences in dealing with the health care system are different, and we all have different perspectives. **If you'd like to share your health care resolution, email the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff](#).**

### CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



### Mark Your Calendars Now

#### Check Out These Excellent Events in 2011!

- **"Perspectives of African American Foster Parents" - Friday, February 4, 9:00-11:00am.** Biotechnology Center, UW Madison. Sponsored by the RRSCC and the School of Social Work. CEUs available. Refreshments provided.
- **Eighth Annual Wisconsin Transition Conference - February 16-18.** Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. The conference is for all people working with and supporting youth with disabilities as they transition from high school to adult life. Early bird registration (through Dec. 23) is \$250 for the general conference (Feb. 17-18) or \$75 for the preconference on Feb. 16; after Dec. 23, registration is \$300 for the general conference and \$100 for the preconference. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Circles of Life 2011 - April 28 & 29.** Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. State's largest conference for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. For more information, [click here](#).

### Now Hiring:

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a part time (approx 0.60 FTE) Parent Advocate. A qualified candidate will be a parent of a child or youth with special health care needs. S/he will conduct health benefits screening interviews for families with children at a risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. The Advocate will act as liaison with Wisconsin's five Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). S/he will ensure that the needs of families with CYSHCN are identified and documented and ensure that a family-centered services are provided to clients. The Advocate will work with attorneys and Health Benefits Counselors on client services, materials development, and training. Familiarity with major health and social service programs helpful, as is knowledge about programs, resources and issues affecting families of CYSHCN. Please [Click Here](#) for the Full Position Announcement. ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer. Please address interest with Cover Letter and Resume to: ABC for Health, Inc., Attn: Brynne McBride, 32 N. Bassett St, Madison, WI 53703 or [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).



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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

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](#)

[Brynne McBride](#)

[Adam VanSpankeren](#)

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.



## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Rep. Richards: Walker, Van Hollen Lawsuit Seeks to Cost Wisconsin Taxpayers \\$365 Million. Allow Exclusions for Pre-Existing Conditions and Re-impose Lifetime Limits on Insurance Coverage - for WisPolitics, December 14](#)
- [Wisconsin to fight health reform law - by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 5](#)
- [Walker willing to use 'free-market' approach for health care law - by Jason Stein and Craig Gilbert for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 2](#)
- [Holloway says he's devoted to better mental health care - by Meg Kissinger for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 1](#)

For the rest of Health Care in Wisconsin News, please [click here!](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Group sees momentum before Thursday hearing in reform law challenge - by Jaon Millman for \*The Hill\*, December 14](#)
- [Law Will Proceed, Administration Says - by Robert Pear and Reed Abelson for the \*New York Times\*, December 13](#)
- [Health Reform Watch: Congress Passes 'Doc Fix,' Revisiting McAllen - by Lea Winerman for the PBS Newshour, December 10](#)
- [Health-care reform means vigilant conduct for providers - by Randall Richards for \*Business First\*, December 10](#)

For the rest of Health Care Reform News, please [click here!](#)

## NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Column: Health care law ruling ignores settled law - by Richard Bonnie for \*CNN\*, December 15](#)
- [Column: Pulling it Together - Holiday Reminder - by David Altman for the \*Kaiser Family Foundation\*, December 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: Kicking a bipartisan habit - by Tom Brokaw for the \*Washington Post\*, December 12](#)
- [Column: How The Health Reform Game Has Changed - by Austin Frakt and Aaron Carroll for \*Kaiser Health News\*, December 9](#)

For more Op-Ed articles, please [click here!](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [Medicaid addition will help more Minnesota poor - by Warren Wolfe for the \*Star Tribune\*, December 15](#)
- [Survey: High-deductible health care plans growing, but slowly - by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 12](#)

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- [Executives keep health perks while workers' benefits are cut - by Gary Strauss for \*USA Today\*, December 11](#)
- [Arizona Cuts Financing for Transplant Patients - by Marc Lavey for \*The New York Times\*, December 2](#)

For more Health Care Costs and Access News, please [click here!](#)



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