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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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January 22 , 2010

Special BC+ BASIC Edition

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 FEES!

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Want to Join HealthWatch Wisconsin As a Member?

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. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational membership for just \$75.** [Click here](#) for more information about HealthWatch Wisconsin.

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[January 8 Special Edition](#)

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HealthWatch Wisconsin Special Edition Update

Please [click here](#) to view the PDF version on our Web site.

Governor Doyle Unveils BadgerCare Plus Basic

Program Highlights

Governor Jim Doyle unveiled the proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, a self-funded, state insurance plan for eligible people in Wisconsin, on Thursday. The program, pending legislative approval, would offer BASIC coverage to individuals on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list. Basic looks like catastrophic coverage, with limited services, a high deductible, and monthly premiums on the order of \$130 per month. The Basic Plan includes co-pays and like the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, there is no backdating of eligibility. Here are some details:

- Up to 10 physician visits each year;
- Limited hospitalization;
- Coverage for first inpatient hospital stay and five outpatient hospital visits;
- Subsequent stays after \$7,500 deductible;
- Up to five emergency room visits each year;
- Some generic medications; and
- Badger Rx Gold discount drug membership.

An enrollee must meet the following program rules to enroll in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and thus qualify for the Core Plan Waitlist and BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan:

- Wisconsin residency;
- U.S. citizenship or qualifying immigration status;
- Ages 19-64;
- No dependent minor children under age 19 living with them;
- Income at or below 200% of the FPL (self-reported);
- Not pregnant, disabled, entitled to Medicare or qualified for a full benefit BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, Medicare or CHIP program;
- Does not have access to health insurance through a

[November 15](#)[November 1](#)[October 20 Special Edition](#)[October 15](#)[October 1](#)[September 15](#)[September 1](#)[August 15](#)[August 1](#)[July 15](#)[July 1](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org, under the "HWW Update" heading.

current employer in the month of application or subsequent three months;

- Did not have access to health insurance through a current employer in the 12 months prior to application, unless there is a good cause reason for not signing up;
- Is not currently covered by a health insurance policy (through employer or individual policy); and
- Has not been covered by a health insurance policy in the 12 months prior to application, unless there is a good cause reason for losing the coverage, such as a recent layoff.

Members enrolled in the Basic Plan will stay eligible as long as they continue to pay monthly premiums, meet basic ongoing eligibility requirements, and are still on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Waiting List. As spots continue to open in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, Waiting List and Basic Plan members will be REQUIRED to complete the Core Plan application.

Pending legislative approval, Wisconsin plans to begin accepting initial Basic Plan applications from Core Plan Waitlist individuals by March 2010, with enrollment and benefits beginning in April, 2010. We will be watching as processes develop to ensure individuals and families enrolled will have fair hearing rights and other legal protections. We look forward to learning more about this new plan in the coming weeks, and sharing information with you in the Update.

Press Coverage

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Season 3:

Episode 1: ["What's Next for Health Care Reform"](#)

Season 2:

Episode 15: ["Making Sense of National Health Reform"](#)

Episode 14: ["Elements of Patient Advocacy in National Health Reform Bills"](#)

Episode 13: ["BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Health Care Reform"](#)

Episode 12: ["Health Reform and Campaign Finance Reform"](#)

- [Doyle Proposes Basic Health Plan for Uninsured on BadgerCare Waiting List - By Jason Stein of the Wisconsin State Journal, January 21](#)
- [HealthWatch WatchDog: What's Next for National Health Reform, filmed January 21](#)
- [State Launches BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan for Uninsured - Biz Times Daily, January 21](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Basic Another Smart Step By Doyle Administration on Health Care Access - Citizen Action of WI, January 21](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Keeps Wisconsin Moving Forward - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, January 21](#)

Back to the Basics! Register Today!

Join us at the 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference, where we'll be joined by Wisconsin's Medicaid Director, Jason Helgeson, for a plenary session on BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan. [Register Today to avoid late fees!](#) For more conference details, please see below!

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2010 DELAYED:

Episode 11: "[Access to Health Care-- A Moral Imperative](#)"

Episode 10: "[A Public Option](#)"

Episode 9: "[Health Reform: Patient Advocacy](#)"

Episode 8: "[Fact or Fiction](#)"

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to everyone who receives the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update! **Watch all other episodes at** www.healthwatchwisconsin.org. Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.

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

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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

The US Department of Health and Human Services has announced that the **2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines have been extended until at least March 1, 2010**. [View the current Guidelines](#).

REGISTER BEFORE FEB. 1st TO AVOID LATE FEES!

It's Time for the 3rd Annual HealthWatch WI Conference

Join us February 8 & 9 in Madison, WI. We are eager to engage in conversations about access to health care and coverage in Wisconsin. Hot topics for these two days include: **National Health Reform's Impact on Wisconsin & BadgerCare Plus Enrollment, Retention and Expansion**. Join workshops that discuss:

- Mental Health Parity
- Troubleshooting BadgerCare Plus
- BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan with Jason Helgerson, Medicaid Director
- Private Insurance Issues with Sean Dilweg, Commissioner of Insurance
- Health Reform from our WI Legislature's Perspective



Conference Dates: Monday, February 8, 2010, 1:00pm-4:30pm (Evening Awards Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm); Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 8:30am-4:30pm

Conference Agenda: See our [Conference Agenda](#) for a listing of workshops and plenary sessions

Location: Best Western Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI

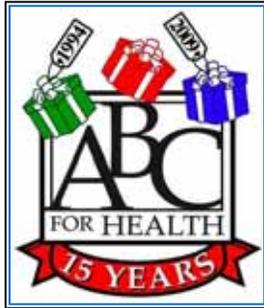
REGISTER TODAY!!

[Click Here](#) to Register Online -or- Download our [Conference Registration Form](#).

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health care coverage and services.



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If you know someone who might be interested, please [Forward this Newsletter >>](#)

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 and Happy New Year!**

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