The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

July 15, 2010 Vol. 6 No. 13

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.

In This Issue:

Federal High Risk Pool Accepts Applications TODAY!
Registration is Now OPEN: “Immigrant Health Coverage Options Workshops”
A Second Packer Ticket Prize Drawing! Keep Those Memberships Coming!
Save the Date: HealthWatch Wisconsin Fall Conference
Save the Date: FoodShare Outreach Conference!
Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!
Wisconsin United for Health Meets TODAY!
HHS Calls for Public Comment on Proposed HIPAA Changes
BadgerCare Plus Basic and Core Plans: Status Report
Coalition Roundup!
CASE TP: BadgerCare Plus and Access to Private Insurance
Grapevine: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020
Mark Your Calendars Now
NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin
NEWS: Health Care Reform
NEWS: Opinion
NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Barron: July 21, 9:00-10:00am. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331

Federal High Risk Pool Accepts Applications TODAY!

Wisconsin is expected to begin taking applications for the Federal Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (Federal HIRSP) on July 15, 2010 for an August 1 effective date. Administered through the existing Wisconsin HIRSP authority, the Federal HIRSP plan will have different eligibility and application requirements from what we know as the existing State HIRSP plan. To qualify for the Federal Pool, a person must:

1. Be a citizen or national of the United States, or be lawfully present; and
2. Have a preexisting medical condition; and
3. Been uninsured for at least 6 months before applying for the HIRSP Federal Plan.

Keep your eye on the HIRSP website for new details as they become available. Be sure to visit the Frequently Asked Questions Tab for the interaction of BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Basic Plans with Federal HIRSP.

The HIRSP Authority has released several handouts to help consumers and public health workers navigate the new program:

- Here is a letter from the HIRSP Authority, outlining their role in administering the new HIRSP Federal Program;
- Click here to view rates for the new Federal HIRSP Program; Click here for the State HIRSP rates;
- Check out the application for Federal HIRSP here; and
- Please view this comparison of the two HIRSP Programs!

If you have any other questions about Federal or State HIRSP, please call the HIRSP Authority: 608-441-5777.

Also, stay tuned for a special webinar presentation on the new HIRSP program presented by the HIRSP Authority, filmed at ABC for Health’s own studio!

Registration is Now OPEN: “Immigrant Health Coverage Options Workshops”

Join the staff of ABC for Health on September 14 in Madison or September 16 in Milwaukee as we spend 3 hours digging into public benefits options for nonqualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants with citizen children, changes in new legislation affecting immigrants...

http://www.writesendtrack.com/PreviewNewsletter.asp?NID=9955
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 with questions.

**Dane** Picnic for July - Today, July 15! Next Meeting: 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 at (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**

with legal permanent resident status, and more!

Attention HealthWatch Wisconsin Members: The cost of this workshop is significantly reduced 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! ABC for Health will be in an area near you:

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

Register Today:

**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.

**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.

**A Second Packer Ticket Prize Drawing! Keep Those Memberships Coming!**

If you have yet to join HealthWatch Wisconsin or renew your membership, now is your chance! **Join or Renew** by July 15 and be eligible for the second Green Bay Packer Ticket Prize Drawing. On Friday, July 16, HealthWatch Wisconsin will be drawing the name of one lucky winner of TWO INDOOR DELUXE CLUB SEAT TICKETS to:

**Packers v. Cleveland Browns**

**Saturday, August 14, 2010, 7:00PM**

You have to be a member to be eligible to win! **Follow this link** for registration information or call HealthWatch Wisconsin to register or renew over the phone: (608) 261-6939 ext. 215.

**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**

**Thursday, October 28, 2010**

9:00am-4:30pm

Inn on the Park

http://www.writesendtrack.com/PreviewNewsletter.asp?NID=9955

7/15/2010
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 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!

Joining 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


Updates from DHS

- New FoodShare Handbook:
- Medicaid Eligibility

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! Mini-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 work, and other professions. 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!

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 celebrating 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!"

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

http://www.writesendtrack.com/PreviewNewsletter.asp?NID=9955
The US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has considered restricting the disclosure or sale of health information and expanding an individual's rights to access information. To do this, HHS is required to issue a "notice of proposed rulemaking" to modify the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Enforcement Rules.
New Policy:
Households (Released July 1)
FoodShare Eligibility for EBD

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is designed to promote the widespread adoption and standardization of health information technology. In order for the new law to be enacted to its fullest, HHS will have to modify the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Enforcement Rules to strengthen the privacy and security protections for health information. In so doing, it is predicted that the workability and effectiveness of the HIPAA rules will be improved.

The proposed modifications to the HIPAA Rules include:

- Provisions extending the applicability of certain of the Privacy and Security Rules' requirements to the business associates of covered entities,
- Establishing new limitations on the use and disclosure of protected health information for marketing and fundraising purposes,
- Prohibiting the sale of protected health information,
- Expanding individuals' rights to access their information and to obtain restrictions on certain disclosures of protected health information to health plans,
- Provisions designed to strengthen and expand HIPAA's enforcement provisions.

The public is invited to comment on the provisions of the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

**View the Joint Statement on Building Trust in Health Information Exchange through Privacy and Security**, issued by OCR Director Georgina Verdugo and Dr. David Blumenthal, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

### BadgerCare Plus Basic and Core Plans: Status Report

**BadgerCare Plus Basic and Core Plans: Status Report**

BadgerCare Plus Basic, the new program for individuals on the Core Plan waiting list, began enrolling members in BadgerCare Plus Basic on June 1 with benefits beginning in July. Rich Albertoni, Director, Bureau of Enrollment Management at DHS provided the Update with the following status report on Basic enrollment:

- As of June 15, 2010, the total number of individuals enrolled and eligible for benefits to begin in July was 1,681
- As of July 8, 2010 (at 5 p.m.) total enrollment had increased to 2,146

If you assisted individuals with their Core Plan applications or know someone who had applied for Core Plan after October 9, 2009, be sure to let them know the steps needed to get OFF the Core Plan waiting list and ON to the Basic Plan! Individuals should have already received a mailing that included a fact sheet and instructions on how to enroll. Similar to Core Plan enrollment, individuals should call 1-800-291-2002 or visit [www.access.wisconsin.gov](http://www.access.wisconsin.gov) to apply. Remember, enrollment in the Basic Plan always starts on the 1st of the month. Which month coverage starts depends on when the applicant pays her first $130 monthly premium:

- If your first premium is received before 4:30 p.m. on the 15th of the month, your enrollment will start on the first of the next month.
- If your first premium is received after 4:30 p.m. on the 15th of the month, enrollment will be delayed a month

**Core Plan Renewals**

must be tested for FoodShare using the regular SNAP rules. Under the regular SNAP rules, these households have no gross income limit, but must have net income that does not exceed 100% FPL. Assets: Households tested under the regular SNAP rules must have countable assets at or below $3000. The FoodShare Handbook Chapter 4.4 has been updated with the current policy regarding when to count or exempt assets.

Provider Updates

Durable Medical Equipment Place of Service Codes for Members Residing in a Facility for Developmental Disabilities
Facilities for developmental disabilities (FDD), are reimbursed through their daily rate for durable medical equipment (DME) reasonably associated with the care of residents, such as manual wheelchairs. Reimbursement for some specialized DME items, such as powered mobility equipment and custom wheelchair positioning systems, is not included in the daily rate. These items may be separately reimbursable when medically necessary and when prior authorized by ForwardHealth.

July 2010 Preferred Drug List Review and Other Pharmacy Policy Changes
This ForwardHealth Update provides an overview of the changes to Preferred Drug List (PDL) drug classes. Providers may refer to the following resources on the Pharmacy page of the ForwardHealth Portal for the complete list of preferred and non-preferred drugs for drugs covered by the benefit plan: The Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus Standard, and SeniorCare Preferred Drug List-Quick Reference. The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Brand Name Drugs-Quick Reference. Effective July 1, 2010, any BadgerCare Basic member, that is diagnosed by a physician as having any cancer besides non-melanoma skin cancers, can bypass the Core Plan waitlist and apply. The individual must be currently enrolled in Basic before approval to bypass the waitlist.

Links of Interest

Medicaid Primer
The Kaiser Family Foundation has released an updated version of their

Individuals who registered for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan in June of last year must be ready to renew their benefits!

- Current enrollees will get a letter in the mail that will indicate "it is time to renew" Core Plan benefits.
- Renewal applications must be submitted in the "renewal month" or the following month
- If not submitted in time, the individual will have to apply for the waiting list.
- Step 1: Start the Renewal Application within the first 5 days of the renewal month.
- Step 2: Submit the Renewal Application by the end of the renewal month or the following month
- Step 3: 30 days to pay the $60 fee
- Step 4: 30 days to provide the required verifications
- NOTE: Even if all the steps are completed "in time," any steps completed after the month following the renewal month will create a gap in eligibility.

Share These Tips for Individuals with Core Plan Renewals:

- Members should get their physical before the end of their renewal month
- Make sure address is current
- Change address either by calling the Enrollment Service Center (ESC) or by filling out a report in your "MyACCESS" account
- Check the due date of renewal on the MyACCESS account page
- Renewal notices should have been mailed 45 days before its due date
- If you have any questions about the renewal process, please start with looking at the renewal chapter in the ACCESS Handbook.

Remember!

For more information on BadgerCare Plus Basic, don't forget to check out the HealthWatch Wisconsin Training Site. Registration is simple, and we have a FREE training webcast available for viewing after a 5 question pre-quiz on the BadgerCare Plus Basic Program.

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 will be exchanging a July Coalition Meeting for a Summer Picnic! Join us for an outing to the Madison Mallards Game! Click Here to view the invitation and details. For more information, please contact Adam VanSpankeren.
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 is doing a presentation about 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, to be scheduled for early August. Also, Polk County HealthWatch is working on a Free Clinic, and Polk County HealthWatch members are preparing to get involved in some direct advocacy and case work.

CASE TIP: BadgerCare Plus and Access to Private Insurance
**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](#).

---

**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.

---

**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

---

**Grapevine: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020**

The new state health plan has been released and is available to preview. **Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer** has two major goals: to improve the health of Wisconsin residents in all stages of life, and to eliminate health disparities to achieve health equity. However, DHS has not yet revealed a clear plan on how they intend to achieve these goals or how they plan to address serious disparities like those in dental care and coverage and mental health parity.

It’s always an appropriate time to comment! What are your thoughts? Let the Grapevine know: Email bmcbride@safetyweb.org to make your voice heard.

For more information on Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 or to voice your opinion directly to the State, email Margaret Schmelzer, the State Health Plan Director.

---

**Mark Your Calendars Now**

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Center for Health Care Strategies Webinar: Models for Improving Medicaid Primary Care: Lessons for Health Reform - Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 pm.** This 90-minute webinar will describe the evolving model of primary care, as well as practice-based transformation strategies underway in two states. For more information or
Did you miss an episode? Click here on Lifeline and Link-Up services. Please watch the new video filmed by ABC for Health to learn more. You may qualify. To receive health benefits, housing, and other assistance, you must be 135% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or lower, FoodShare or other public program participants, and are under 135% FPL. Studio Rent the ABC for Health Lifeline and Link-Up Services!

You can also find information on a variety of topics online. To view the video, visit the WATCHDOG LIBRARY. To view other videos, visit Watchdog Episodes:

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:
Did you miss an episode? Visit our WATCHDOG LIBRARY to view videos from 2008-present.

Previous Issues of the Update:
View our Update Newsletter Library Online!

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:
- Contact Information Fliers
- Online Order Form
- Referral Sheet
- Guide to Applying

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 Wisconsin.

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010
A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now available online. 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: Information for Parents
Champions for Inclusive Communities published a fact sheet on the 2005/6 National Survey of CYSHCN.

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

- Press Release: Feingold Announces Opening of New Pre-Existing Condition Health Insurance Plan - the Office of Senator Russ Feingold, July 15
- State health care shortfall could reach $850 million - by Patrick Marley and Jason Stein for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 14
- Shilling on health care reform committee - for the La Crosse Tribune, July 14
- State overhauls BadgerCare program - by Matt Hrodey for the Milwaukee News Buzz, July 14
- Group to offer free medical care in Ozaukee County next month - by Gabrielle Winbrush for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 13
- Program aims to promote healthy living among older Hispanics - by Laurel Walker for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 12
- Molina Healthcare to buy Abri for $16 million - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 12
- Health insurers face big challenges - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 11
- Milwaukee firm growing by working with employees on health care costs - by Stacy Vogel Davis for the Business Journal of Milwaukee, July 9
- State's health survey hits area - by Alicia Yager for the Wisconsin State Journal, July 5
- At this Madison clinic, some patients pay more so others can pay nothing - by Doug Erickson for the Wisconsin State Journal, July 5

For more information, contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at Wisconsin First Step: 1-800-642-7837.

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

Website: dhsmiles@wisconsin.gov

La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI.

State's health survey hits area - by Alicia Yager for the Wisconsin State Journal, July 5

http://www.writesendtrack.com/PreviewNewsletter.asp?NID=9955
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**

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

- Stoughton Hospital and GHC selected for Wisconsin Forward Award - by Judy Newman for the Wisconsin State Journal, July 5

**NEWS: Health Care Reform**

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

- Health Plans Must Provide Some Tests at No Cost - by Robert Pear for the New York Times, July 14
- Questions over abortion in new federal health plan - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press, July 14
- At Funding Rules' Debut, HSS Docs Sing Praises Of Electronic Health Records - by Julie Rovner for NPR, July 13
- Seven Health Care Changes You Might Have Missed - by Mary Agnes Carey and Andrew Vellegas for Kaiser Health News, July 9
- Rescinding consumers' insurance coverage to end - by Bruce Jepsen for the Chicago Tribune, July 6
- First health overhaul provisions start to kick in - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press, July 6
- COBRA, Medicaid Subsidies Still Loom Over Congressional Agenda - by Andrew Vellegas for Kaiser Health News, July 2
- Telemedicine Grant to Improve Rural Health Care - Press Release by the Wisconsin Reproductive Health Network for the Wheeler Report, July 2
- Among Some, High Marks for Health Care Overhaul's Beginnings - by Robert Pear for the New York Times, July 1

**NEWS: Opinion**

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

- Op-Ed: Better technology will deliver better health care to Iowans - by Bill Leaver for the Des Moines Register, July 15
- Blog: WSI on the Lookout for Health-Care Commies - by Paul Waldman for the American Prospect, July 14
- Blog: What Will Happen To Emergency Room Traffic - by John Goodman for Health Affairs.org, July 12
- Op-Ed: With Donald Berwick's appointment, the doctor is (finally) in - by David Ignatius for the Washington Post, July 9
- Op-Ed: To Mitch McConnell: We're Already Rationing Care - by Erin N. Marcus, MD for the Huffington Post, July 8
- Op-Ed: Is Having a Baby Bad for Your Health? - by Marcia G. Yerman for the Huffington Post, July 3
- Op-Ed: Can Medical Technology Solve the Health Care Problem - by Uwe E. Reinhardt for the New York Times, July 2
- Editorial: Regulate Cigarette Promotion - for the Buffalo News, July 1
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 Costs and Access

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

- A sampling of covered preventive services - for the Washington Post, July 15
- High-risk pools off to slow start - by Gloria Park for Politico, July 13
- District might get back in hospital business to keep United Medical Center alive - by Mike DeBonis for the Washington Post, July 9
- When Choosing Health Care, Know What You'll Owe - by Walecia Konrad for the New York Times, July 9
- New RNs find job market tight - by Alison Young for USA Today, July 9
- USDA says soda tax would cut obesity - by Jane Black for the Washington Post, July 8
- Some states say they're not receiving the Medicaid services they're paying for - by Alec MacGillis for the Washington Post, July 8
- Health-care law may pose challenges for IRS, taxpayers - by David S. Hilzenrath for the Washington Post, July 7
- No health coverage? How to cope - by Joel Schectman for the Associated Press, July 6
- Health insurers may soon offer contraceptives at no extra cost - by Michelle Andrews for the Washington Post, July 6
- Health law risks turning away sick - by Julian Pecquet for The Hill, July 1

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This newsletter was generated using

WriteSendTrack
email marketing made simple

subscribed as [EmailAddress]  
Edit Profile  |  Unsubscribe

ABC for Health, Inc.  
32 N. Bassett St.  
Madison, WI 53703-2606 USA