



The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

October 1, 2010

Vol. 6 No. 18

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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

To Print:

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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.

Health Reform Training!

Registrations are flying in! Join us at the October 28th event:

"The Changing Landscape of Health Insurance in Wisconsin after Health Reform"

Thursday, October 28, 2010

9:00am-4:30pm

Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll St.,
Madison

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Health care reform is unfolding before

our eyes. The process of reform will take years, but many key questions and issues need your attention today! This workshop will continue the process of educating the public health workforce on health reform issues. Join sponsors HealthWatch Wisconsin and ABC for Health for sessions led by regulators, policy makers, and advocates in Wisconsin. Included in your registration is HealthWatch Wisconsin's newest publication: "My Health Reform Guidebook." Continuing education credits will be offered for attorneys and social workers. A continental breakfast, lunch and CD are included with your registration.

Reduced registration cost will be available for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! [Join HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) to take advantage of savings throughout the year!

SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING: GREEN BAY PACKERS DELUXE, INDOOR CLUB SEAT TICKETS!! One lucky winner will leave the workshop on October 28 with a pair of tickets to the December 5 **Green Bay Packers v. San Francisco 49ers Game!!** *To be eligible to win: you must be a 2010-2011 individual member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. We will include individuals joining HealthWatch WI while registering for this workshop in our drawing.*

See you in Madison in October!

Coming Soon: On-Demand "Immigrant Health Coverage" Training

This October, you'll be able to access a comprehensive web cast on the issues of public benefits relevant for Wisconsin's immigrant populations. In September, ABC for Health Staff presented its popular "Immigrant Health Coverage Issues" training in front of energetic audiences in Madison and Milwaukee. We promised that if you lived or worked outside the Greater Madison or Milwaukee Area, you, too, could have exclusive access to this workshop on-demand--delivered straight to your desktop. HealthWatch Wisconsin staff are putting the finishing touches on the new HealthWatch Training Portal to make this special training possible.



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: October 4, 9:00-11:00am. The Harambee Center, 2202 S Park Street, Madison. Contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#) 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](#) 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](#) or (715) 834-4455 or [Pat Perkins](#) or (715) 839-4718 with questions.

Milwaukee: TBD, 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: 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. Oct 26 at 9:00am at Goodwill Community Center, 1814 N Appleton Road, Menasha. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) or [Connie Raether](#) for more information.

It's Not Too Late To Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has

Watch future editions of the Update Newsletter for information on how to register for this training. Want to be extra sure you don't miss an announcement? [Send us an email at HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) to have a training registration page emailed directly to your inbox when the Immigrant Health Coverage Webcast link is active. Don't miss this opportunity for a great training!

Here's what people are saying about this training:

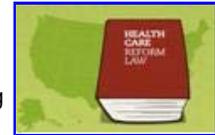
"This [presentation] was very informative and very current!"

"The material was relevant to what's going on right now; and I can use what I learned today right away."

"An energetic presentation!"

Short Animation Explains Health Care Reform Law!

A new animation from The Kaiser Family Foundation explains the 1,000 page health care reform law, how it will affect our health, wallets and the country. The short video discusses the major problems families and individuals have experienced trying to obtain health insurance, mainly high costs and holes in the system. The video illustrates how the law will affect us, in two segments "Phase 1: Now and 2014" and "2014 and Beyond." "Phase 1" describes the measures to prevent premium increases, changes to current laws, and High Risk Pools. While, "Phase 2" explains what an "Exchange" is and how it will help make insurance more affordable and increase coverage, as well as diving into the financial costs of the health care reform law. [Click here to view the video.](#)



Studying Access to Health Care in Wisconsin

Study Committee Schedules Two Meetings for October:

[The Legislative Council Special Committee on Health Care Access](#) has been directed to study possible state assistance to underserved areas and an expansion of Wisconsin's capacity for training family practice physicians and nurses, and additional funding sources for public health. A significant effort to accomplish this end is the study of solutions to the shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural areas and inner cities, and the adequacy of funding for public health. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to offer recommendations and solutions to address the robust, complex nature of the "lack of access" problem as presented. Meetings are scheduled for October 1 and October 22. Visit the [Committee Web Site](#) for details and directions.



Our View: Access to Care Includes Access to Coverage

Access to quality, affordable health care often begins with access to comprehensive health care coverage. Health care reform has improved the availability of coverage for Wisconsin's residents; yet myriad barriers separate families and single individuals under the age of sixty from securing essential, affordable coverage. We need an advocacy presence to effectively navigate the changing systems of coverage and to receive timely and comprehensive coverage for residents. Legislative leadership addressed a similar issue, when in 1977, the elderly voiced a demand for advocacy that ultimately led to the successful creation of a supportive statewide network of Senior Benefits Specialists in Wisconsin. Accordingly, it is time to hear the voices of communities across the state for coordinated advocacy outreach and enrollment in health care coverage programs to ensure Wisconsin residents are linked to the health care coverage and services they need.

Share Your Response with the Committee:

begin, 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!

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.

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: October 21

Note: The Chairs and Vice-Chair of this committee have been invited to present at the HealthWatch Wisconsin Health Reform Training, October 28, 2010.

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

Next Meeting: October 1

Following Meeting: October 22

[Interim Study Committee on Infant](#)

We encourage you to offer opinions on the lack of access to health care and coverage in Wisconsin. What solutions do you recommend? Send your ideas, concerns and questions to [HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) or contact the [Legislative Council Study Committee Chairman, Rep. Kessler](#) directly.

Now Hiring:

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a **Legal Assistant**, responsible for providing administrative support for attorneys and Health Benefits Counselors to advocate for clients. A qualified candidate will assist in conducting intake interviews with individuals requesting assistance, primarily 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. Familiarity with civil legal procedures and citation form and Wisconsin's health and social service programs is desired. This position includes conducting a variety of research and analysis assignments, prepare legal or administrative hearings documents, and edit/review internal publications. A strong administrative/legal support background required. Please [Click Here for the full Position Announcement](#). 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. ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer.



ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a **Health Benefits Advocate**, responsible for providing information and referral, counseling and advocacy services to assist primarily families (many Spanish speaking) with children at risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. Advocates also assess the need for legal services in consultation with the attorneys and other Health Benefits Counselors, and assist with case-related tasks. [Click Here for the full Position Announcement](#). 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. ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer.

HIRSP Audit Shows Statistics on Enrollment and Financial Strength

On September 28, Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released its [Report of the 2009 annual financial audit of the Wisconsin Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan \(HIRSP\) Authority](#). The introduction to the Report provided valuable statistics on enrollment and financial strength of HIRSP. Since its inception on July 1, 2006, [the HIRSP Authority](#) has maintained a sound financial position.



Plan Enrollment:

The HIRSP Authority provides medical and prescription drug insurance for individuals who are unable to obtain coverage in the private market or who have lost employer-sponsored group health insurance.

- Plan enrollment was 16,252 as of December 31, 2008, a decrease of 874 policyholders, or 5.1%, compared to enrollment of 17,126 as of December 31, 2007.
- During 2009 there was a slight increase of 129 policyholders, or 0.8%, in plan enrollment.
- There were 16,381 policyholders as of December 31, 2009.

Mortality

Next Meeting: October 13

Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51

Next Meeting: October 4

NEW from Kaiser! Health Reform: An Overview - Health Policy Education from Kaiser Family Foundation. Check out this very informative video and 18 slide power point [here](#).

Updates from DHS

DHS has released updated versions of its BadgerCare Plus and Access Handbooks!

Here is a link to the [BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#) version 10-04; and to the listed [changes](#), effective October 1. Please click here to see the [Access Handbook](#) version 10-04; and its listed [changes](#), effective October 25.

Operations Memos

[Ops Memo 10-65](#) Milwaukee County Wisconsin Works (W-2) Participant Choice Policy (*released Sept. 23*)

New Policy: Beginning January 1, 2011, participants assigned to a Milwaukee W-2 Employment Agency (WEA) will be able to request a transfer to a different WEA if: his/her W-2 case opened before April 1, 2010; he/she has been at the current WEA for at least six months; he/she has special circumstances (homelessness, special needs related to domestic violence, mental or physical health issues that warrant a WEA change); or if he/she moves to a different region. SSIA participants may choose a WEA if the switch is determined appropriate.

[Ops Memo 10-71](#) Long Term Care Insurance Partnership Program--Reciprocity Standards (*released Sept. 21*)

New Policy: Participation in Wisconsin's LTCIP program is allowed for individuals who purchased qualified policies in any state that is subject to the LTCIP reciprocity standards as documented in that state's Medicaid State Plan.

- Approximately 500 of the individuals who left HIRSP in 2008 were children who qualified for the State's BadgerCare Plus program effective February 1, 2008. Because of their BadgerCare Plus eligibility, these children were no longer eligible for HIRSP and transitioned to BadgerCare Plus during the first quarter of 2008.
- During 2009, approximately 470 individuals left HIRSP as a result of the expansion of the State's BadgerCare Plus program to adults without children, which affected overall enrollment growth.

HIRSP After Federal Health Reform:

The 2010 health care reform legislation allocated each state a portion of the \$5 billion in federal funds provided for the temporary high-risk pool program and gave the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 90 days to establish the program either directly or through contracts with states and nonprofit entities. In July 2010, DHHS contracted with the HIRSP Authority to implement the program in Wisconsin to provide access to insurance for individuals who are uninsured because of pre-existing medical conditions, called the HIRSP Federal Plan, which is expected to operate until 2014. HIRSP Plans are for individuals who have recently been insured, while the HIRSP Federal Plans are for individuals who have not been insured for at least six months. Following the links on the HIRSP website, you can compare the two plan options for yourself! [Follow this link](#) to get started. **For More Information** on HIRSP Federal Plan, please join us at the October 28 Health Reform Training in Madison where Josh Weisbrod of the HIRSP Authority will present. [Click Here](#) to register for the conference.

Wisconsin Partnership Program Annual Report is Released

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, in coordination with the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and the Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC), has released the 2009 annual report of the [Wisconsin Partnership Program \(WPP\)](#). Please [Click Here to Read the Wisconsin Partnership Program Annual Report \(pdf\)](#), posted September 27, 2010.

The report covers activities and expenditures from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. It has been prepared in accordance with the Insurance Commissioner's Order; the Agreement between the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF), the University of Wisconsin Foundation, and the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents; and the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan. Each of these documents was created to guide the distribution of the funds resulting from Blue Cross and Blue Shield United of Wisconsin's conversion to a for-profit corporation.

Follow Up to Earlier Discussion in the HealthWatch Update: The Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board

Many of our readers have been actively following the actions of the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board. The discussion has centered around a Legislative Audit Bureau Report, issued earlier this year, that evaluated how the UW medical school and Medical College of Wisconsin were doing, as stewards of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion funds. The WUHF Board is in the process of scheduling their annual report meeting, to occur before the end of the calendar year. As a response to both the annual report and follow-up conversations on the WUHF Board and LAB, the Staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin is working on a new edition of the "HealthWatch Reporter." Watch your inbox for that mailing in the coming days!

Wisconsin Awarded Exchange Planning Grant

The Department of Health Services was awarded \$999,873 by the US Department of Health and Human Services to design and build an insurance exchange ahead of

[Ops Memo 10-58](#) Electronic Case File (ECF) Workflow Phase 2 (*released Sept. 20*)

New Policy: Effective November 1, workers can use self-scanning, faxing and uploading to get documents to the ECF. The Document Tracking Sheet (DTS) must be used as a cover sheet while self-scanning or faxing documents to the ECF.

[Ops Memo 10-69](#) Enforcing the 40% Rule for Children of Child Care Provider Employees (*released Sept. 17*)

New Policy: Wisconsin Act 28 inhibits Wisconsin Shares reimbursements to employees of a child care provider if more than 40% of all children enrolled by the provider are children of employees of the provider. This memo explains how to determine if a provider is violating Wisconsin Act 28 through the Child Care Statewide Administration website and describes the six week notice to give to providers who are out of compliance. All authorizations for children of parents employed by the provider will be terminated if the provider does not comply.

[Ops Memo 10-70](#) Child Care Certification--Permanent Bar for False Information on BID Forms (*released Sept. 16*)

New Policy: Child care applicants who provide false (or withhold) information to the regulatory agency will permanently be barred. "False" here means intentionally or willfully untrue. If an applicant unintentionally gives misinformation or makes a mistake on the forms, that would not constitute a permanent bar..

Provider Updates

For extended summaries of *Provider Updates* from September, please see the column at right.

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

health reform's 2014 deadline. On September 1, 2010, DHS submitted an proposal in response to CFDA Number: 93.525 State Planning and Establishment Grants for the Affordable Care Act's Exchanges. With the new award, DHS is funded to meet the following objectives:

- Design an Exchange that moves beyond an aggregator of health insurance options, to a mechanism that influences how health care is delivered in the State.
- Contract to develop a predictive model to measure the impact of the insurance market reforms on Wisconsin, coupled with other requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
- Maintain Exchange resource information on the Office of Health Care Reform web site to allow stakeholders to stay informed and provide input.
- Conduct surveys of the individual, small group, and large group markets, and model and analyze insurance reform impacts to assure clear understanding of Wisconsin's current and future health insurance landscape.

"Wisconsin sees the Exchange as a transformative force," states the DHS proposal to the Federal Government. The objective of the Wisconsin Exchange Planning Project is to complete the necessary research and analysis to establish the foundation for a successful implementation. Wisconsin was awarded the full amount requested for this project. For a full listing of state award winners, [click here](#).

Private Insurance Disputes after Health Reform: Internal and External Reviews

Digging into the Fine Print in October:

A new provision in federal health reform legislation requires group health plans and insurance companies to establish an **internal** claims appeal process and **external** review procedures for individuals who wish to contest denials of claims and benefit determinations. Notice of the available appeal options and access to an individual's file must also be provided to consumers. A lot of regulations and procedures govern both the internal and external review options for families and individuals. Keep in mind, there is a **grace period** to allow insurers to "get up to speed" on health reform provisions. During the applicable period, the Department of Labor and IRS will not take any enforcement action against a self-insured group health plan that complies with safe harbor provisions. The resources below give more information on the grace period. **We'll be digging into the fine print** on internal and external reviews, regulatory changes in Wisconsin, enforcement actions, and other changes to private insurance after federal health reform, at the October 28 Health Reform Training in Madison. [Click Here](#) to register for the conference.



For Federal Guidance on Internal and External Reviews:

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. \(n.d.\). Interim Appeals Guidance. Retrieved September 21, 2010](#)
- [Revised Model Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination](#) (Sept. 20, 2010)
- [Department of Labor Technical Release 2010-01](#)
- [Department of Labor Technical Release 2010-02](#)
- [Interim federal external review process](#) for health insurance issuers in states without external review laws technical guidance
- "Grace Period"--[DHHS Interim Procedures](#) for Federal External Review Relating to Internal Claims Appeals and External Review

Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look



to apply by sending an email with a cover letter and resume to bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

DHS Resources: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:

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

Phone Support

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

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

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

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676
FAX: (414) 438-4580

In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area

Emails:

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 only: use to email MiES with advocate questions.

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:

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

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 Coalition is meeting Monday, October 4 and is excited to be hosting Carrie Gray, Pharmacy Policy and Program Analyst for DHS, and Jason Beloungy, Project Manager from Access to Independence. Dane County HealthWatch is also very excited to announce the unanimous appointment of Mimi Farber to the Steering Committee. For questions or comments, contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

The **Tri-County HealthWatch Coalition** met Tuesday, September 28. A subcommittee was formed to help engage the diabetes issue in that region, and several other health issues were identified, including teen pregnancy prevention and access to dental care. The next meeting is October 26 and the agenda will include civil rights and health care, in addition to updates on the aforementioned issues. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

Polk County HealthWatch Coalition is currently focused on mental health parity and will be attending the "Making Parity Real" forum in Balsam Lake on October 14. Please see the flyer, [here](#), for more information. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Chippewa and Eau Claire County HealthWatch Coalitions have been overcoming access issues related to getting women who were on the Core Plan when they became pregnant access to full BadgerCare Plus coverage, as well as the Family Planning Waiver. It seems that the Enrollment Services Center is asking folks to re-verify their income before the case is released back to the county, creating an additional hurdle for women who are already accommodating many transitions. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) or [Pat Perkins](#) or (715) 839-4718 with questions.

Finally, registration forms for the October 28 Health Reform Training have been sent to each of the Coalition chairs. Look for them at your next HealthWatch Coalition meeting or [CLICK HERE](#) to register today!

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 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 [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

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 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

CASE TIP: Dependent Coverage of TriCare

No Change to TriCare Dependent Coverage Policies After Health Reform

TriCare is a health care program serving over 9.6 million active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide. TriCare "brings together the health care resources of the uniformed services and supplements them with networks of civilian health care professionals, institutions, pharmacies and suppliers," according to [TriCare.Mil](#), the official website of the TRICARE Management Activity (a component of the Military Health System). Currently, dependent children may remain on their parents' TriCare policies until age 21, or age 23 for full-time students who rely on their parents for more than 50% of their support. TriCare was specifically excluded from federal health reform legislation that expanded coverage for dependents to age 26.

Dependent Coverage: As a reminder, a provision of federal health reform law that becomes effective in 2010 allows adult children to keep their coverage under a parent's health insurance policy until age 26, whether or not they are currently enrolled in college. The parent's policy might be group coverage sponsored through an employer or an individual or family policy purchased by the parent. Some employer-based plans are accepting students now while others may wait until January 1, 2011 before allowing students to re-enroll. Please note that Wisconsin has its own dependant coverage law, which provides coverage for adult children until the age of 27. Please [click here](#) for more information on that coverage option for insurance plans governed by the law of Wisconsin.



TriCare is not impacted by health reform, so the TriCare policy for dependent eligibility has not changed. The reason for not including TriCare in reform legislation was part administrative and part political.

Legislation to Watch: Legislation has been *introduced* to change the rules of TriCare and CHAMPVA benefits to mimic health reform dependent coverage rules. Two bills, HR 4923 and S. 3201, both titled, The TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act (one in the House, one in the Senate) were wrapped into the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2011](#). The bill passed the House, but the companion bill failed a [cloture motion](#), preventing consideration of the bill in the Senate by roll call vote. The Senate failure is speculated to be due to the other add-ons to the bill that are more controversial (including the DREAM Act and Don't Ask, Don't Tell provisions.) All this political movement is pretty recent—the Senate vote to hear debate on the Defense Act was just last week. Watch future editions of the Update for developments on this and related legislation.

Grapevine: Changes to BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan Preferred Drug Listing



In the September ForwardHealth Provider Update, a [Fall 2010 Preferred Drug List](#) was announced. The Online Handbook has not yet been updated to reflect the information found in the Update, but we are able to get an idea of the new Preferred Drug List for dates of service on or after October 1, 2010. This impacts BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, Medicaid, and SeniorCare, and does not impact Benchmark Plan, Core Plan or Basic Plan (unless noted). Changes in status may have occurred to preferred and non-preferred drugs. The Staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin is reviewing the new Drug List and changes to be able to help patients identify any changed coverage.

Feedback: Tell us what you think: [Email the HealthWatch Staff](#) if a change in the Drug List will impact families you are working with.

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.



(608)261-6939

info@safetyweb.org

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

Provider Updates for September

ForwardHealth Updates are regularly made available to Wisconsin Providers. We have selected a few key updates and summarized them below. For more information or to view additional updates, please visit the [ForwardHealth Provider Portal](#).

[Present on Admission Indicator Required for Additional Hospital Providers](#)

Effective for dates of discharge on and after October 1, 2010, Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus are expanding the types of hospital facilities/providers that are required to include present on admission (POA) indicator information for all primary and secondary diagnoses to include: Critical access hospitals and Children's hospitals. Claims will be denied if the POA indicator is not present on claims with dates of discharge on and after October 1, 2010. Additionally, reimbursement may be affected by this requirement. Critical access hospitals and children's hospitals were previously exempt from this requirement as stated in the December 2009 ForwardHealth Update (2009-93), titled "Present on Admission Requirements for Inpatient Hospital Claims." This policy is an extension of the BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid rate reform cutbacks to improve quality and control costs.



[2010 Rate Changes for School-Based Services](#)

Effective for claims processed on and after October 1, 2010, federal share reimbursement rates for school-based services (SBS) will be 60.16%. The information in this ForwardHealth Update applies to members enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid, the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, and the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan.

[ForwardHealth Holiday and Furlough Day Schedule](#)

ForwardHealth will be closed for business in recognition of certain holidays and in accordance with state furlough days occurring in calendar year 2010 and 2011, which will affect call center and other resources' availability as well as payment review and approval. The holiday and furlough day schedule is provided in this ForwardHealth Update.

[Rate Changes for Case Management Services](#)

Effective for claims processed and paid on and after October 1, 2010, the federal share will decrease from 60.21% to 60.16% for case management services, although the reimbursement amount for these services will not change. Wisconsin Medicaid will pay up to the federal share of the contracted rates for these services. If the provider's usual and customary charge for the service is less than the contracted rate, Wisconsin Medicaid will pay the federal share of the usual and customary charge.

[Prior Authorization Is Required for Certain Durable Medical Equipment Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan](#)

Prior authorization (PA) is required under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for certain durable medical equipment (DME) services. Prior authorization policy for the Core Plan is the same as the PA policy for Medicaid and the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan with the exception of non-preferred diabetic supplies. Non-preferred diabetic supplies are not covered under the Core Plan and PA requests will be returned to providers. The PA policy is effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after January 1, 2009, and clarifies policy published in the December 2008 ForwardHealth Update (2008-211), titled "Durable Medical Equipment Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults."



Certain Inpatient Hospital and Nursing Home Claims Processed Incorrectly

Certain inpatient hospital claims submitted since ForwardHealth interChange implementation may have been incorrectly denied due to a system error. In addition, effective for dates of process on and after October 1, 2010, nursing home claims will be denied if covered and noncovered days and accommodation units are not indicated correctly. This ForwardHealth Update outlines the denials and provides information regarding claims submission, including timely filing requests.

Fall 2010 Preferred Drug List Changes

This ForwardHealth Update provides information for prescribers and pharmacy providers about changes to the Preferred Drug List effective for dates of service on and after October 1, 2010. BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and SeniorCare have added three new drug classes to the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and reviewed 41 existing drug classes. Changes in status may have occurred to preferred and non-preferred drugs. Changes to the PDL will be effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after October 1, 2010, unless otherwise noted. Changes in this Update do not impact members enrolled in the Benchmark Plan, the Core Plan, or the Basic Plan unless otherwise noted.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **What's After High School? Everything You Need to Know About Supports and Resources for Youth with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs - October 6, 18, 20, and November 1.** 5:00-8:00pm. October 6 - Gateway Tech College, Burlington; October 18 - Gateway Tech College, Racine; October 20 - Badger High School, Lake Geneva; November 1 - Gateway Tech College, Elkhorn. Hosted by Family Voices of Wisconsin, the event is free and dinner will be provided. To register, call 608-220-9598 or email Lynn at lynn@fvofwi.org.
- **CKF's Annual Fall Conference - October 12, 2010.** 9:00am-3:30pm. Visitor Center, UW Arboretum in Madison. No registration fee required. Please check out their [website](#) for more information.
- **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.
- **Assistive Technology Expo - October 21, 2010.** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Engineering Centers, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1550 Engineering Drive, Madison, WI 53706. FREE! For more information, please [click here](#).

- **Expanding Opportunities and Relationships for Youth in Transition - October 21, 2010.** Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI. Registration information will be available September 15 - watch for more information. Event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Community on Transition, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, and the Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities
- **Children Come First Conference - *See My World: New Perspectives on Children's Mental Health* - November 7-9, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells. For more information contact Wisconsin Family Ties, 608-267-6800 or 800-422-7145 or visit www.familyties.org
- **2010 Mental Health Consumer Conference - "Mental Health Reform: Advocating for Our Future" - November 22 and 23, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

CYSHCN Grants Awarded

The Department of Health Services, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program has announced that the agencies listed below have been awarded grants in response to the Request for Proposals for CYSHCN Statewide Initiatives. Congratulations to the following agencies and offices:

1. Family Voices of Wisconsin, Family Health Leadership Initiative
2. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Fox Valley, Medical Home Initiative
3. ABC for Health, Inc, Access/Health Benefits Initiative

Sharon Fleischfresser, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Wisconsin CYSHCN Program Division of Public Health, commented when announcing the accepted proposals, "We look forward to working together to serve Wisconsin's children and youth with special health care needs and their families." Contracts for the initiatives will begin January 1, 2011.

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:

- [State gets \\$11.3M from health care overhaul - for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 29](#)
- [Wisconsin's free health care clinics might emulate Kentucky program - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 27](#)
- [Watchdog agency advocates for the disabled, mentally ill - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 26](#)
- [Thousands turned out for annual free dental care event in Sheboygan - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 25](#)
- [Advocates celebrate new national health care reforms - by Jackie Johnson for the Wisconsin Radio Network, September 24](#)

- [How new health care policies affect you](#) - for WKOW, September 23
- ['Not acceptable' - Group examines infant mortality rates](#) - by Janine Anderson for *The Journal Times*, September 23
- [Some families win under new health care provisions](#) - by Carla Johnson for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 23
- [New era dawning for Columbia St. Mary's](#) - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 21
- [Layoffs hit health care system](#) - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 20
- [Federal health care grants total \\$2.4 million](#) - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 17
- [Extra \\$675 million sought for health care](#) - by Jason Stein and Patrick Marley for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, September 16

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Not all Dems run from health care law](#) - by Jennifer Haberkorn for Politico, September 27
- [What Happens to Health Law if GOP Wins Congress?](#) - for NPR, September 25
- [Palin targets health overhaul](#) - by Philip Elliott for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 24
- [State workers feeling major task of implementing health-care law](#) - by Darryl Fears and Lena H. Sun for *The Washington Post*, September 22
- [Health-Care Changes Kick In](#) - by Kristen Gerencher for the *Wall Street Journal*, September 22
- [Health care reform still unpopular](#) - by Sarah Kliff & Jennifer Haberkorn for Politico, September 22
- [Health provisions begin phasing in Thursday](#) - by Alison Young for *USA Today*, September 22
- [White House tries to give healthcare a human face](#) - by Patricia Zengerle for Reuters, September 22
- [Medicare Advantage Premiums to Fall in 2011](#) - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, September 21
- [Major health insurers to stop offering new child-only policies](#) - by N.C. Aizenman for *The Washington Post*, September 20
- [GOP Aims to Erode White House Agenda](#) - by Neil King Jr. and Janet Adamy for *The Wall Street Journal*, September 20
- [A Consumer's Guide To The Health Law, Six Months In](#) - by Mary Agnes Carey for *Kaiser Health News*, September 15

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Editorial: More Tea Party Hypocrisy: Angle Gets Government Healthcare](#) - by John Aloysius Farrell for *U.S. News*, September 29
- [Editorial: What it's going to cost you](#) - by Mickey McLean for WORLDmag.com, September 29
- [Op-Ed: Health Insurers Finally Get Some Oversight](#) - by Kathleen Sebelius for *The Wall Street Journal*, September 28
- [Blog: Assessing the real impact of health care reforms](#) - by Jon Rauser for the *Milwaukee Biz Times*, September 27
- [Blog: 'Real people' don't make headlines](#) - by Howard Kurtz for *The Washington Post*, September 24
- [Editorial: About Your Premiums](#) - for *The New York Times*, September 24
- [Blog: Democrats Recycle Failed Healthcare Pitch for Stimulus Plan](#) - by Brandon Greife for *U.S. News*, September 23

- [Blog: Health Care Reform Kicks In: More Benefits, Bills and Battles to Come - by Linda Stern for CBS News, September 23](#)
- [Blog: Health reform's benefits kick in - by Rep. Chris Van Hollen for Politico, September 23](#)
- [Blog: Democrats guess wrong on health care - by Carrie Brown for Politico, September 22](#)
- [Editorial: Benefits and Burdens of Medicaid - for *The New York Times*, September 21](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [McDonald's Says It May Drop Health Plan - by Janet Adamy for *The Wall Street Journal*, September 30](#)
- [House Passes 9/11 Health Care Bill - by Raymond Hernandez for *The New York Times*, September 29](#)
- [More options for seniors with high drug costs - by Ricardo Alonso-Zalvidar for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 29](#)
- [Health Costs Seen Hitting Five-Year High - by Joe Mont for *Newsweek*, September 29](#)
- [Press Release: Wisconsin Awarded \\$2.1M To Help People Access Health and Long-Term Care Options - by Beth Kaplan for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, September 28](#)
- [Free clinic planned for Saturday - for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 27](#)
- [How College Health Plans are Failing Students - by Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Mary Pilon for *The Wall Street Journal*, September 25](#)
- [Cost and Lack of Awareness Hamper Adult Vaccination Efforts - by Lesley Alderman for *The New York Times*, September 24](#)
- [Eight Immediate Cost Benefits of Health Care Reform - by DR for *U.S. News*, September 24](#)
- [Double-digit hikes for some Medicare drug plans - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, September 23](#)
- [Healthcare: Where the Money Goes - by Kevin Drum for *Mother Jones*, September 22](#)
- [Health law brings preventive care without copays - by Carla Johnson for The Associated Press, September 22](#)

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