


DSP INFO MEMO 2009 – 01 February 17, 2009

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators
Bureau Directors
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities Services Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Indian Child Welfare Directors
Section Chiefs/Licensing Chiefs
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Cyrus A. Behroozi 
Administrator

Re: BadgerCare Plus Co-Payments Charged to Children in Out-of-Home Care

When the new BadgerCare Plus (BC+) program began on February 1, 2008 it created additional access to medical care for citizens across Wisconsin. Implementation of the BC+ program required complex changes to the system used by medical providers to bill for reimbursement. Unfortunately these system changes have created a situation where children in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs have been charged co-payments by BC+ providers. This memo provides an update on efforts to correct the problem.

Historically co-payments were never charged for services to children when enrolled in the Medicaid and BadgerCare programs. With the implementation of the new BC+ program, the co-payment policy was changed and only children who had family income under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were exempted from premiums, deductibles and co-payments. Children in Foster Care or receiving Adoption Assistance that were certified for BC+ benefits through the eWISACWIS system should have been included in the exemption from premiums, deductibles and co-payments, but were mistakenly omitted from the exemption. These children are certified for BC+ under the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance med stat codes and are considered categorically eligible for BC+ and thus exempt from co-payments, deductibles and premiums.

It has come to the attention of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) that many children in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs are incorrectly being charged co-payments for medical services. Due to the BC+ billing system problem, BC+ medical service providers are not aware that the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance children are not to be charged a co-payment and the BC+ provider billing system is directing providers to charge a co-payment for services. DCF has met with the Department of Health Services (DHS) concerning this serious matter and steps are being taken to correct the problem. DHS is working on a solution to the EDS billing system to exempt the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance BC+ med stat codes from co-payments, deductibles, and premiums. While the system being fixed, DHS will be sending out an official provider update to all providers by the end of February 2009.

Until the problem is resolved, DHS is suggesting that counties and out-of-home care providers work with

BC+ medical service providers to inform them that co-payments should not be charged for children in the Foster Care or Adoption Assistance programs. Until such time that the official notice is sent to the BC+ providers, providers can still charge co-payments; however, if they contact the BC+ Provider Services Hotline, at (800) 947-9627, they can be notified that co-payments should not be charged for children in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs. There is also an automated system (WiCall) that providers can call to verify a child's co-pay status.

Pharmacies should no longer be charging co-payments for children in the Foster Care or Adoption Assistance programs since they do point of sale billing and should immediately know that co-payments are not required. If a pharmacy does attempt to charge a co-payment, the pharmacy should be asked to contact the BC+ Provider Services Hotline for the updated co-payment information.

If problems continue to occur with children in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs being charged co-payments it is suggested to give the out-of-home care providers a copy of this DCF Info Memo so they can provide it to the BC+ medical provider. Once the BC+ provider contacts the BC+ Provider Services Hotline the co-payment situation should be resolved.

DCF will continue to monitor this issue and work with DHS to get the official notifications in place to avoid any additional charging of incorrect co-payments.

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