

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT RATE INCREASE FOR SELECT HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

This ForwardHealth Update announces reimbursement rate increases for a number of home and community-based services (HCBS) supported by the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARPA). Under ARPA, states are able to claim an additional 10 percent on their federal medical assistance percentage for HCBS expenditures claimed between April 2021 and March 2022. States must use these additional funds to implement or supplement the implementation of one or more activities to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS under the Medicaid program.

One of the things Wisconsin will be doing is increasing reimbursement rates for a number of HCBS by 5 percent. This increase will go into effect on January 1, 2022, and run through the end of March 2024.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Adult Mental Health Day Treatment Providers, Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers With Psychiatric Specialty, Audiologists, Home Health Agencies, Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers, Master's-Level Psychotherapists, Narcotic Treatment Services Providers, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses in Independent Practice, Nurse Midwives, Occupational Therapists, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinics, Personal Care Agencies, Pharmacies, Physical Therapists, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Prenatal Care Coordination Providers, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Qualified Treatment Trainees, Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers, Specialized Medical Vehicle Providers, Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech and Hearing Clinics, Substance Abuse Counselors, Substance Abuse Day Treatment Providers, Substance Use Disorder Health Homes, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs



Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2022, maximum allowable fees will increase by 5 percent for select codes in the following fee-for-service categories:

- Alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) treatment services
- Home health services
- Medication therapy management
- Mental health day treatment
- Mental health services
- Nursing (in home)
- Occupational therapy (in home)
- Personal care
- Prenatal care coordination
- Physical therapy (in home)
- Residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
- Respiratory care
- Skilled nursing services (registered nurses and licensed practical nurses)
- Speech and language pathology (SLP) services (in home)
- SUD counseling
- Targeted case management
- Transportation services (excluding broker provided non-emergency transportation and ambulance services)

Select codes for AODA treatment, home health, mental health services, personal care, physical therapy, and SLP services also received increases under the 2021–23 biennial budget. The increases under Wisconsin’s ARPA plan are in addition to the increases approved under the 2021–23 biennial budget, with the 5 percent increase being applied to the new rates authorized in the budget.

The ForwardHealth claims processing system may not be updated with the new reimbursement rate for home health, physical therapy, and skilled nursing services by the effective date. In that event, claims for services provided on and after January 1, 2022, that were reimbursed at the previous rate will be automatically adjusted. Reimbursement will be adjusted to the maximum amount allowed or the billed amount, whichever is less. When the adjustments are completed, they will be announced on the banner page of the Remittance Advice.

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with 2021 Wisconsin Act 58.

Providers should refer to the [maximum allowable fee schedules](#) on the ForwardHealth Portal for a complete list of the new rates.

All other policy for the impacted services, including coverage and prior authorization (PA), remains the same. Providers should continue to follow all current coverage and PA policy.

Documentation Retention

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Providers are required to produce or submit documentation, or both, to ForwardHealth upon request. Per Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services shall maintain records as required by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit such records to verify actual provision of services and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. ForwardHealth may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet these requirements. Refusal to produce documentation may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, termination from the Medicaid program.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This Update contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO). MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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The ForwardHealth Update is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health within DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.