

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

Wisconsin serving you

Your First Source of ForwardHealth Policy and Program Information



NEW CONCURRENT COVERAGE POLICY FOR BEHAVIORAL TREATMENT SERVICES WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Effective immediately, this ForwardHealth Update announces new coverage policy for the concurrent delivery of behavioral treatment services (applied behavior analysis services) with behavioral health services (mental health and/or substance use disorder services).

Previously, ForwardHealth did not cover behavioral treatment services concurrently with day treatment, psychosocial rehabilitation, and intensive in-home mental health and substance use disorder services. This restriction for behavioral treatment services has now been removed.

Allowable Concurrent Services

Effective immediately, ForwardHealth will allow for the concurrent delivery of behavioral treatment services with behavioral health

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Adult Mental Health Day Treatment Providers, Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers With Psychiatric Specialty, Behavioral Treatment Providers, Child/Adolescent Day Treatment Providers, Community Recovery Services Providers, Community Support Programs, Comprehensive Community Service Providers, Intensive In-Home Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Children Providers, Master's-Level Psychotherapists, Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinics, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Qualified Treatment Trainees, Substance Abuse Counselors, Substance Abuse Day Treatment Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs



services when both services are identified as medically necessary, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 101.03\(96m\)](#).

ForwardHealth recognizes that coordinated services between behavioral treatment and behavioral health providers may be clinically appropriate.

Expectations and Documentation Requirements for Collaborating Providers

Whether or not prior authorization (PA) is required for a service, each provider must separately document their collaboration with the other provider in the member’s medical record. The documentation must include services the member is receiving from the other provider and the current schedule of services or the frequency of services from both providers. This will ensure better coordination, continuity of care, and prevent duplication of services.

ForwardHealth requires providers to coordinate with each other at least once every six months, or more often if indicated by the member’s condition. Refer to the [Care Collaboration](#) topic (#19098) of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook to clarify requirements for behavioral treatment providers.

The following table shows care collaboration requirements for a collaborating behavioral health provider under two possible scenarios.

IF...	A behavioral health provider intends to provide a service that requires PA,
THEN...	The behavioral health provider must include the mode and frequency of the coordination between themselves and the collaborating behavioral treatment provider in the PA request and the member’s medical record.
IF...	A behavioral health provider is providing a service that does not require PA,
THEN...	The behavioral health provider must document coordination between themselves and the collaborating behavioral treatment provider in the member’s medical record.

“Effective immediately, ForwardHealth will allow for the concurrent delivery of behavioral treatment services with behavioral health services when both services are identified as medically necessary, per Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 101.03(96m).”

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code §§ DHS 107.02(3) and 107.22(4), and 42 USC § 1396d(a).

Services That Require PA

Collaborating providers must include the following information in their PA request:

- The concurrent services received by the member
- The mode and frequency of the care collaboration between providers (for example, phone calls, meetings, the member's weekly schedule)

Note: ForwardHealth may request additional information, if needed, to establish the medical necessity of the service.

In the event a provider experiences challenges obtaining the required documentation from their collaborating provider, ForwardHealth recommends that the provider submit the PA request, detailing the barriers to obtaining the required documentation. ForwardHealth will consider the current barriers and may allow flexibility to authorize services as appropriate.

Retention of Medical Records Documentation

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Information about those requirements are explained in the following Online Handbook topics:

- [Financial Records](#) (#201)
- [Medical Records](#) (#202)
- [Preparation and Maintenance of Records](#) (#203)
- [Record Retention](#) (#204)
- [Availability of Records to Authorized Personnel](#) (#1640)

Providers are required to produce and/or submit the documentation to ForwardHealth upon request. ForwardHealth may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet this requirement.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This Update contains fee-for-service policy and applies to providers on a fee-for-service basis only. The behavioral treatment benefit is a benefit for Medicaid-enrolled members who demonstrate medical necessity for covered services.

The behavioral treatment benefit is **separate** from BadgerCare Plus HMOs, Medicaid SSI HMOs, and special managed care plans. Special managed care

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**
Provider Services,
800-947-9627

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code §§ DHS 107.02(3) and 107.22(4), and 42 USC § 1396d(a).

plans include Children Come First, Wraparound Milwaukee, Care4Kids, Family Care, and the Family Care Partnership Program. PA requests and claims are processed by ForwardHealth instead of the member's HMO or special managed care plan.

The behavioral treatment benefit **is not separate** from the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) managed care organization. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization.

The information provided in this ForwardHealth Update is published in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code §§ DHS 107.02(3) and 107.22(4), and 42 USC § 1396d(a).

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/.