

Public Notice Health Services

Medicaid Reimbursement for Outpatient Hospital Services: Acute Care, Children's, Critical Access, Psychiatric, and Rehabilitation Hospitals State of Wisconsin Medicaid Payment Plan for Rate Year 2018

The State of Wisconsin reimburses hospitals for outpatient services provided to Medical Assistance recipients under the authority of Title XIX of the Social Security Act and Chapter 49 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This program, administered by the State's Department of Health Services (the Department), is called Medical Assistance or Medicaid. In addition, Wisconsin has expanded this program to create the BadgerCare Plus program under the authority of Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act and Chapter 49 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Collectively, these programs are herein referred to as the Wisconsin Medicaid Program (WMP). Federal statutes and regulations require that a State Plan be developed that provides the methods and standards for reimbursement of covered services. Such a plan is currently in effect.

The WMP uses a reimbursement system for outpatient hospital services which is based on Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Groupings (EAPGs). The EAPG system is a discrete, cost-specific reimbursement methodology that allows the Department to reimburse providers based on case mix. The rate-setting methodology employs a provider-specific, EAPG base rate, which includes a payment enhancement for facilities with graduate medical education programs. The EAPG base rate for critical access hospitals is based on each hospital's specific, prospective costs. Effective January 1, 2018, the Department is updating the outpatient hospital rates for rate year 2018 (January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018).

The following changes will be contained in the January 1, 2018 outpatient hospital state plan amendment:

- Outpatient hospital rates and weights will be updated for rate year 2018.
- Elimination of Hospital Outpatient Extended Nursing Services prior authorization and reimbursement program.

This notification is intended to provide notice of the type of changes that are included in the amendment. Interested parties should obtain a copy of the actual proposed plan amendment to comprehensively review the scope of all changes.

Proposed Change

It is estimated that these changes will have no material impact on projected annual aggregate Medicaid expenditures in state fiscal year 2018. The Department maintains the same hospital budget approved by the Legislature.

The Department's proposal involves no change in the definition of those eligible to receive benefits under Medicaid, and the benefits available to eligible recipients remains the same. The effective date for these proposed changes will be January 1, 2018.

Copies of the Proposed Change

A copy of the proposed change may be obtained free of charge at your local county agency or by calling or writing as follows:

Regular Mail

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53701-0309

State Contact

Benjamin Nerad, Hospital Policy and Rate Setting Section Chief
Bureau of Fiscal Management
(608) 267-9698 (phone)
(608) 266-1096 (fax)
Benjamin.Nerad@wisconsin.gov

A copy of the proposed change is available for review at the main office of any county department of social services or human services.

Written Comments

Written comments are welcome. Written comments on the proposed change may be sent by fax, email, or regular mail per the above information. All written comments received will be reviewed, considered, and made available for public review between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily in Room 350 of the State Office Building, 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin. Revisions may be made to the proposed change based on comments received.