



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 92
[2003 Senate Bill 243]

Volunteer Health Care Providers

2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/

Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 92 modifies the volunteer health care provider program to include volunteer dental hygienists and to allow dentists and dental hygienists under the program to provide services to recipients of Medical Assistance (MA) if certain conditions are met.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Under the volunteer health care provider program, certain volunteer health care providers are treated as agents of the state Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) for purposes of the statutes that require legal representation by the Department of Justice and payment of judgments against them. In order to participate in the program, a volunteer health care provider and a nonprofit agency must jointly submit an application to the Department of Administration and that department must approve the application. The statutes set limitations on what services may be provided by the nonprofit agency. In addition, the nonprofit agency must provide health care services primarily to low-income persons who are uninsured and who are not recipients of MA or Medicare.

For purposes of the program, prior law defined the term “volunteer health care provider” as a physician, dentist, registered nurse, practical nurse, nurse-midwife, optometrist, physician assistant, or dietician, who receives no income from the practice of that profession or who receives no income from the practice of that profession when providing services at the nonprofit agency. Volunteer health care providers must provide their services without charge at the nonprofit agency.

ACT 92

Act 92 modifies the definition of “volunteer health care provider” to include dental hygienists.

In addition, the Act allows a volunteer health care provider who is a dentist or dental hygienist to provide services to MA recipients if all of the following conditions apply: (1) the nonprofit agency’s

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

fees for those services apply to the recipients and to persons who are not MA recipients; (2) the agency accepts discounted payments, based on ability to pay, from persons who are not MA recipients; and (3) the volunteer health care provider is certified under MA, or DHFS has waived the requirement for certification, or the volunteer health care provider is not required to be certified.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on December 18, 2003.

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December 11, 2003

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