



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Shawn Smith, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

DHS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: DHS 15-02

DATE: 1/16/2015

FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: 2015 Health Care Renewal Date Adjustments for Childless Adults

CROSS REFERENCE:

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 31, 2015

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memo is to announce adjustments to certification periods for childless adults (adults with no children under 19 years of age living in the home) to avoid a substantial increase in health care renewals due in March 2015.

BACKGROUND:

Under 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 and 2013 Wisconsin Act 116, BadgerCare Plus (BC+) coverage for childless adults began on April 1, 2014. Given the high number of applications for this coverage starting on April 1, 2014, many childless adults have their annual health care renewals due in March 2015. To mitigate this renewal "bubble" and avoid backlogs in processing, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved the extension of certification periods for childless adults for one or two additional months in early 2015.

POLICY:

By the end of January 2015, the following groups of childless adults will have their BC+ renewal date changed systematically:

- Childless adults with health care renewals due in March 2015 and FoodShare (FS) renewals due in April 2015 will have a new health care renewal date of April 2015.
- Childless adults with health care renewals due in March 2015 and FoodShare (FS) renewals due in May 2015 will have a new health care renewal date of May 2015.
- Childless adults with health care renewals due in March 2015 who are not enrolled in FS will have a new health care renewal date of April or May 2015. This population's renewals will be distributed evenly between these two months.

Childless adults who are subject to these changes will receive a 45-day renewal letter based on the new renewal date.

With these adjustments, the Department of Health Services (DHS) projects a statewide renewal volume for all programs and all populations of approximately 65,000 renewals per month in March, April and May 2015. This is a higher volume than Wisconsin's monthly average of 53,000 renewals statewide, but it avoids a projected spike in March 2015 of almost 100,000 renewals.

CARES:

Renewal dates in CARES will be adjusted systematically in late January 2015. No other CARES changes will be made.

CONTACTS:

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – SeniorCare, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/AA