



Date: June 12, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-24

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Division of Medicaid Services

12-Month Postpartum Coverage for BadgerCare Plus

CROSS-REFERENCE

- BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, [Section 8.1 Pregnant Members](#)
- Wis. Stat. [§ 49.46](#)
- 42 U.S.C. [§ 1396a\(e\)\(16\)](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

June 12, 2026

PURPOSE

This memo announces the extension of the BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period from two to 12 months.

BACKGROUND

Under current policy, people who are enrolled in full-benefit BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid on the date when their pregnancy ends are eligible for postpartum BadgerCare Plus coverage that concludes at the end of the month in which the 60th day after the end of the pregnancy falls.

Recent changes in state law extend this postpartum coverage period to 12 months, using a state option allowed under federal law.

POLICY

Effective June 1, 2026, most people who are enrolled in full-benefit BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid on the date when their pregnancy ends are eligible for postpartum BadgerCare Plus coverage until the end of the month in which the 365th day after the end of the pregnancy falls. This includes people who:

- Are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and reported their pregnancy to their Income Maintenance (IM) agency while pregnant.
- Are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid and report their pregnancy as a result of requesting benefits for their newborn child.
- Apply after their pregnancy has ended, but their enrollment in BadgerCare Plus includes the date when their pregnancy ended.

People enrolled in BadgerCare Plus coverage as a pregnant person will have continuous coverage through the duration of their pregnancy until the end of the 12-month postpartum period. This continuous coverage can only end early due to the following reasons:

- The person requests to be disenrolled from BadgerCare Plus;
- The person is no longer a resident of Wisconsin;
- The person's eligibility was based on incorrect information or agency error; or,
- The person passes away.

People who are enrolled in presumptive eligibility, also known as Express Enrollment, for BadgerCare Plus as a pregnant person are not eligible for postpartum coverage.

People who are enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program are not eligible for postpartum coverage in BadgerCare Plus.

TRANSITIONING MEMBERS TO 12-MONTH POSTPARTUM COVERAGE

People who are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as a pregnant person or are in their 60-day postpartum coverage period on June 1, 2026, will have their postpartum coverage period extended to 12 months.

People whose BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period was scheduled to end on May 31, 2026, will have their postpartum coverage period extended an additional 10 months.

People whose BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period ended March 31, 2026 or April 30, 2026, and are no longer open for health care benefits, can contact their IM agency to request to reopen their BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage for the remainder of their 12-month postpartum period. As part of this, they may request coverage for months in the past, according to current policy on retroactive coverage.

Example: Freya was enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as a pregnant person. She gave birth on January 22, 2026. Her postpartum coverage ended March 31, 2026. Freya calls her agency on August 10, 2026, and requests her coverage be reinstated. She requests retroactive coverage for three months (May, June, and July). Freya will have her BadgerCare Plus coverage reopened from May 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027.

People whose BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period ended March 31, 2026 or April 30, 2026, and continue to have BadgerCare Plus under a different category, will have their postpartum coverage extended in their current category of enrollment. They will maintain their current enrollment through the end of their postpartum coverage period, unless coverage ends because of the reasons listed above. They do not need to contact their IM agency to request this coverage.

People currently enrolled in Family Planning Only Services or BadgerCare Plus with a premium will be reenrolled into BadgerCare Plus postpartum category for an additional 10 months. They do not need to contact their IM agency to request this coverage.

People whose BadgerCare Plus postpartum coverage period ended March 31, 2026 or April 30, 2026, but are now in an Elderly, Blind, or Disabled category of Medicaid, will have their postpartum coverage extended in their current category of enrollment. They will maintain their current enrollment through the end of their postpartum coverage period, unless coverage ends because of the reasons listed above. They do not need to contact their IM agency to request this coverage.

People whose BadgerCare Plus postpartum period ended before March 31, 2026, are not eligible to have their postpartum period extended to 12 months.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEEP/RW

DHS/DMS/BEOT/JN