



# Coverage of Behavioral Treatment

Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability  
Division of Long Term Care

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# Presentation Purpose

To provide an overview of the changes to autism treatment services and behavioral treatment for parents and guardians.

- Reason for changes
- Behavioral treatment benefit information
- Overall timeline
- Scenarios

*Note: Presentation information is current as of November 3, 2015; all dates are tentative and subject to change.*



# Transitioning Services

- Right now children are receiving autism treatment services through the CLTS Waiver Program. Parents and guardians work with their waiver agency.
- In the future, children will receive behavioral treatment, including autism treatment, as a regular Medicaid benefit.



# Why the Change?

- In July 2014, the federal government directed states to cover autism treatment services under the Medicaid State Plan.
- In response, the Department of Health Services is transitioning autism treatment services from the CLTS Waiver Program to a new ForwardHealth behavioral treatment benefit.
- ForwardHealth includes the Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and Katie Beckett programs.



# How Children Receive Treatment Today Under the CLTS Waivers

- As children's names are released from the state Autism Wait List, children are enrolled in the CLTS Waiver Program through their local waiver agency.
- Parents and guardians work with their Support and Service Coordinator to identify service needs and providers.
- Children access autism treatment with waiver agency oversight.



# How Children Receive Treatment Today Under the CLTS Waivers (cont.)

- Three treatment levels:
  - Intensive
  - Consultative
  - Ongoing
- Treatment under the CLTS Waivers was determined by providing a set amount of weekly treatment hours, allocated dollars, and year limits to each child.



# How Children Will Receive Treatment Under ForwardHealth

- Behavioral treatment will be a regular ForwardHealth benefit, like a physician service or well-child screening.
  - Parents and guardians will no longer have to contact the waiver agency to receive behavioral treatment services.
  - Parents and guardians will work directly with a Medicaid-enrolled behavioral treatment provider.
- There will no longer be a state Autism Wait List.



# Behavioral Treatment Benefit

The ForwardHealth behavioral treatment benefit will include two different types of treatment: comprehensive and focused.

- **Comprehensive treatment** is an early intervention approach designed to address multiple aspects of development and behaviors in young children; typically higher weekly hours and longer duration.
- **Focused treatment** is dedicated to addressing specific behaviors or developmental deficits; typically fewer weekly hours and shorter duration.



## **Behavioral Treatment Benefit (cont.)**

- ForwardHealth covers evidence-based treatment modalities, including Applied Behavior Analysis and Early Start Denver Model.
- Treatment hours will be specific to the child's behavioral treatment needs.
- The behavioral treatment benefit adopts a flexible approach to meeting the child's needs.



# Behavioral Treatment Benefit (cont.)

- Services must be medically necessary for the child.
- Medical necessity is determined by ForwardHealth through the prior authorization (PA) process.
- The PA is requested by the behavioral treatment provider on behalf of the child.
  - All PA requests for behavioral treatment are considered by ForwardHealth.
  - PA requests do not go through the child's Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus HMO.



# The Prior Authorization Process

1. A Medicaid-enrolled behavioral treatment provider will complete and submit the PA request and required documentation to ForwardHealth.
2. A decision on the PA request will be made by ForwardHealth.
3. The PA decision will be communicated to the provider.
4. Treatment can start with an approved PA.



# Accessing Behavioral Treatment Services

Parents and guardians will use the ForwardHealth card to access behavioral treatment services.





## What Is *Not* Changing?

- Eligibility criteria for the CLTS Waiver Program will remain the same.
- The CLTS Waiver Program will continue to provide an array of supports and services, including support and service coordination, to meet children's assessed needs.



## What Is *Not* Changing? (cont.)

- Eligibility requirements for the Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and Katie Beckett programs will remain the same.
- ForwardHealth will continue to coordinate benefits with commercial insurance. Providers must bill commercial insurance before billing Medicaid.



# Overall Timeline

## November 2015

- Providers who wish to provide behavioral treatment under the ForwardHealth benefit are required to enroll in Wisconsin Medicaid as a behavioral treatment provider.

## January 1, 2016

- The behavioral treatment benefit will be available and PA requests will begin to be processed.
- Children on the state Autism Wait List may begin the PA process.



## Overall Timeline (cont.)

### Summer 2016:

- All children receiving autism treatment through the CLTS Waiver Program will have completed the PA process.

### By December 31, 2016

- All behavioral treatment services will be provided under the ForwardHealth benefit.



## Additional information

- Learn more about the changes and sign up for email updates at: [dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/clts/waiver/autism/updates.htm)
- To learn more about the transition of behavioral treatment services from the CLTS Waivers to ForwardHealth, contact your waiver agency.
- If your behavioral treatment provider has questions about the ForwardHealth benefit, refer them to the ForwardHealth Portal at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov](https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov)