



Section 1115 Postpartum Coverage Waiver

Public Hearing

April 13, 2022

April 20, 2022



Join the Public Hearing

April 13, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Join online:
 - <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1616690151>

- Join by phone:
 - Toll-Free: 844-708-2568
 - Webinar ID: 161 669 0151



Join the Public Hearing

April 20, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Join online:
 - <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1610547719>

- Join by phone:
 - Toll-Free: 844-708-2568
 - Webinar ID: 161 054 7719



Special Considerations Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Due to the public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state will not be conducting in-person meetings as part of the public notice process for this waiver application.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has discretion to exempt the state from completing any aspect of the public notice process, including exemption from conducting any public notice when the state demonstrates to CMS the existence of unforeseen circumstances, such as the COVID-19 public health emergency that directly threatens human lives that warrant an exception to the normal public notice process.
- Accordingly, the state will use two webinars instead of in-person hearings.



Presentation Outline

- Purpose of Hearing
- Background
- Waiver Project Objectives
- Overview of Waiver Proposal
- Budget Neutrality
- Timeline
- Comments



Purpose of the Hearing

- Thank you for your attendance today.
- The purpose of this hearing is to gather comments from the public on the proposed Postpartum Coverage Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver.
- At the end of this presentation, you may ask questions and/or provide your comments.
- Please hold all comments until that time.



Current Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

- Under current law, the income eligibility threshold for pregnant people is 306% of the federal poverty level.
 - Pregnant people with income over 306% may become eligible for coverage by meeting a deductible, also known as a spend-down.
- Eligibility for coverage ends on the last day of the month when the 60-day postpartum period ends.
- Those who qualify for Medicaid based on pregnancy are provided with a wide range of Medicaid benefits, including prenatal care, childbirth, and delivery services.



Current Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

- Individuals whose household income is below 100% of the FPL may retain eligibility following pregnancy.
- Unless eligible under other Medicaid provisions, individuals whose household incomes are above 100% FPL are no longer eligible for coverage.
- They are dis-enrolled from the program after 60 days.



2021 Wisconsin Act 58

- This waiver is prompted by 2021 Wisconsin Act 58.
- Requires DHS to request federal approval to extend postpartum eligibility for Medicaid-eligible pregnant people to continue to the last day of the month after 90 days postpartum.
- The legislation does not impact or modify any components of the state's current Medicaid or CHIP programs.



Waiver Objectives

The goals sought by this waiver are to:

- Reduce the morbidity and mortality of eligible Medicaid members in Wisconsin.
- Support the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Medicaid program in Wisconsin.



Waiver Overview

This waiver increases the postpartum coverage period from 60 days to 90 days after the last day of pregnancy.



Demonstration Population

The waiver will only be implemented for the following eligibility groups.

Eligibility Group Name	CFR and Social Security Act Citations
Qualified Pregnant Women and Children	42 CFR § 435.116 SSA § 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(III) SSA § 1905(n)
Mandatory Poverty Level Pregnant Women	SSA § 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(IV) SSA § 1902(l)(1)(A)
Optional Poverty Level Related Pregnancy – Women & Infants	SSA § 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IX) SSA § 1902(l)(2)



Determining Eligibility

- Eligibility for the extended postpartum period is determined by the date on which the pregnancy ends.
- This extension has no material impact on eligibility determinations.
- Individuals who are not enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as a pregnant person are not eligible for this proposed extension.



Maintaining Eligibility

- Participants who are deemed eligible for postpartum coverage will maintain coverage for the duration of the three-month postpartum period.
- After the three-month postpartum period, an eligibility redetermination will be made.
- If an individual qualifies for full Medicaid benefits as part of a separate eligibility group, they will maintain coverage.



Transition Period

- DHS will extend a “transition period” to eligible people whose 60-day postpartum benefits prior to this demonstration would have expired.
- Eligible people will be permitted to seamlessly benefit from the extended postpartum coverage and maintain coverage for the duration of the 90-day period.



Enrollment Transitions

- Individuals will seamlessly transition into this extended benefit exactly as they did previously under the 60-day postpartum benefit period.
- After the extended three-month postpartum benefit period, all birthing people covered by this proposed extension will transition to the appropriate Medicaid program, if eligible, based on their current eligibility.



Retroactive Enrollment

- There is no change to the state's current retroactive coverage policy.
- New entrants to the program will have retroactive coverage back to the beginning of the month in which their application was submitted.
- Eligibility may be determined for up to three months prior to the month of application upon the applicant's request.



Managed Care Delivery System

- The state will utilize a managed care delivery system to provide services to all members eligible for this proposed extension.
- The state does not intend to amend its existing contracts with its HMOs to implement the provisions of this 1115 demonstration waiver.



Health Plan Selection

- HMO assignment/selection will follow the same process used outside this waiver.
- Members who do not already belong to an HMO upon entry into the program will be automatically enrolled into an HMO.
- Members will then have a 90-day window to switch to a different plan if they choose before being locked into their assigned plan until their anniversary date the following year.



Payment Rates for Services

- The capitation rate-setting methodology for this demonstration will be the same methodology used to set rates for the current Medicaid populations.
- Payment rates will comply with all federal rate-setting requirements and guidance.



Implementation

- The state intends to implement the demonstration as soon as possible after CMS approval.
- This rollout must include sufficient time for the state to prepare and implement operational and administrative changes and communicate with members the changes under the waiver.



Notification

- The state will develop and deploy an appropriate communications strategy to inform current BadgerCare Plus enrollees and members in the “transition period” group.
- Communications will also target HMOs, pertinent organizations, hospitals, providers, and lactation service professionals, through provider-specific messages.
- Additional communications to all pertinent organizations will be conducted via email.



Budget Neutrality

- Federal policy requires Section 1115 demonstration waivers be budget neutral to the federal government.
- Wisconsin will continue to use a per-member per-month (PMPM) methodology specific to the postpartum coverage population to determine and achieve budget neutrality.
- The demonstration will measure the financial impact to the program.



Timeline

Major Milestone	Date
Tribal Notice	March 15, 2022
Public Notice & Draft Waiver Application Posted to DHS Website	April 6, 2022
Public Hearings	April 13, 2022 April 20, 2022
Tribal Consultation	May 10, 2022
Public Comment Period	April 6, 2022 – May 6, 2022
Final Waiver Application Submitted to CMS	May 15, 2022
CMS Approval	TBD
Implementation	As soon as possible after CMS approval



Waiver Materials

Waiver materials, including the full public notice, and comment mechanisms, are available on the DHS website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/waiver-postpartum.htm.



Providing Comments

- At the conclusion of this presentation, we will provide instructions on how you can provide your comments orally and in writing on the webinar today.

- Comments may be mailed to:

Department of Health Services, Division of Medicaid Services
Attn: Wisconsin 1115 Postpartum Coverage Waiver
PO Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309



Comments

- You can also email your comments to DHS: dhspostpartumcoverage1115waiver@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Comments may also be faxed to 608-266-1096; attn.: Bailey Dvorak.
- Comments will be collected through the end of the public comment period on May 6, 2022.
- All comments that are properly submitted will be given equal weight regardless of the method in which they are submitted.



Language Assistance

- This presentation will be posted in English, Spanish, and Hmong at: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/waiver-postpartum.htm.
- If you would like to see this presentation in another language, email DHSDMSSPAPublicFeedback@dhs.wisconsin.gov.



Language Assistance

- ATTENTION: Language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-800-362-3002.
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Language Assistance

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