

Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Provider Bulletin

Program Information for Children's Waiver Providers

As a waiver provider, you serve an essential role in supporting the lives of children and families. This Bulletin is part of DHS' commitment to support you by communicating important children's waiver information directly to you.



COVERAGE OF NURSING SERVICES AND PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IS TRANSITIONING TO WISCONSIN MEDICAID

The information provided in this Bulletin is published in accordance with Social Security Act § 1915(c) and 42 C.F.R. § 440.180.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services was directed by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to transition coverage of specific services from the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program to the Wisconsin Medicaid programs (Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, and Katie Beckett programs) that use the ForwardHealth card. Wisconsin Medicaid currently covers nursing services and personal care services, and so does the CLTS Waiver Program. Beginning July 1, 2020, the CLTS Waiver Program will no longer cover nursing services and personal care services.

More specifically, the following Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes will no longer be covered by the CLTS Waiver Program beginning July 1, 2020:

- S9123 (Nursing care, in the home; by registered nurse, per hour)
- S9124 (Nursing care, in the home; by licensed practical nurse, per hour)
- T1019 (Personal care services, per 15 minutes, not for an inpatient or resident of a hospital, nursing facility, ICF/MR or IMD, part of the individualized plan of treatment)

If you deliver nursing and/or personal care services through the CLTS Waiver Program under these procedure codes, it is necessary to help the children or young adults you serve to transition those services to the Medicaid programs that use the ForwardHealth card by July 1, 2020.

Your Responsibilities for Transitioning Services

If you are currently providing personal care or nursing services under the CLTS Waiver Program using procedure codes S9123, S9124, or T1019, you will be contacted (if you have not been contacted already) by a Provider Relations representative about helping children and young adults receive nursing and personal care services using the ForwardHealth card. Once you are contacted, you should:

- Submit prior authorization (PA) requests for nursing and personal care services by May 15, 2020, to ensure that there is no gap in services.
- Contact your Provider Relations representative if you need help. Kyle Robel is available via email at kyle.robel@wisconsin.gov and by phone at 608-421-6275.
- Alert the family if you will not be submitting PA requests, then contact the child or young adult's county waiver agency so you can work together to create a transition plan for the nursing and personal care services.

All providers of personal care or nursing services under procedure codes S9123, S9124, or T1019 should help families pursue coverage through Medicaid programs that use the ForwardHealth card.

Resources for All ForwardHealth Providers

ForwardHealth benefits include coverage for private duty nursing, skilled nursing, and personal care services that are determined to be medically necessary.

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The following resources support providers through the Medicaid programs and the ForwardHealth card. To learn more:

- Read the February 2019 ForwardHealth Update (2019-08), titled “[Explanation of Prior Authorization Requirements for HealthCheck ‘Other Services’](#),” and the [ForwardHealth Online Handbook](#) for ForwardHealth policy.
- Refer to the [Resources for HealthCheck Providers](#) page of the ForwardHealth Portal for more information about HealthCheck.

HealthCheck and HealthCheck “Other Services”

As a reminder, HealthCheck is the Wisconsin Medicaid term for the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Federal law requires that state Medicaid programs provide EPSDT services for Medicaid participants under 21 years old. HealthCheck covers most diagnostic and intervention services a child or young adult through age 20 may need.

HealthCheck “Other Services” allows coverage of additional health care services that are allowable under the federal Medicaid program and are medically necessary to prevent, correct, improve, or maintain the person’s physical or mental condition.

Streamlined PA Process for HealthCheck “Other Services” for All Providers

The Department of Health Services has implemented a streamlined PA process to remove roadblocks and to support consistent access to HealthCheck “Other Services” for the individualized needs of children and young adults through age 20.

Submission process changes include:

- All PA requests for children and young adults through age 20 no longer require proof of a HealthCheck exam, also known as “pink cards,” or other special forms by the provider.
- Multiple steps to obtain PA for HealthCheck “Other Services” have been eliminated.
- Providers only need to submit a single PA request and the outcome of that request will be the definitive decision.

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Providers may use two paths for submitting PA requests:

- PA request submission for exceptions to coverage limitations
- PA request submission for services not routinely covered

Each path has different requirements. For process requirements, refer to the [Prior Authorization for HealthCheck “Other Services”](#) topic (#1) in the Online Handbook.

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The CLTS Waiver Program is a home and community-based services waiver. It provides services funded by Wisconsin Medicaid for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to live full and inclusive lives in their home or community. Eligible children include those with developmental disabilities, severe emotional disturbances, or physical disabilities. Funding can be used for a range of services and supports based on the goals and identified outcomes for each child and their family.

For more information, visit the [Services for Children With Delays or Disabilities](#) webpage.