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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle**

**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: Amy Mendel-Clemens, Chief
Technical Assistance and Training Section
Bureau of Enrollment Management
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability**

BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No: 09-35					
DATE: 06/11/2009					
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"/>
				BC+ CORE	<input type="checkbox"/>
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
CF	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> *
				EP	

SUBJECT: Dropped Coverage Policy for Pregnant Women

CROSS REFERENCE: BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 7.5.1.2

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2009

PURPOSE:

This memo announces a change to eligibility requirements for pregnant women with incomes over 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

BACKGROUND

A policy introduced with BadgerCare Plus was a requirement for pregnant women with incomes over 200% of the FPL to maintain any preexisting health insurance coverage they had throughout the course of their pregnancy. If a pregnant woman dropped major medical health insurance coverage without good cause, she was ineligible for BC+ for three calendar months. In order to comply with new federal law, the Department needs to change this policy.

POLICY CHANGE

Effective June 1, 2009, pregnant women receiving BadgerCare Plus (BC+) benefits with family incomes over 200% of the FPL will no longer have to maintain any preexisting health insurance coverage while they are pregnant. Any pregnant woman, who is currently in a 3-month restrictive reenrollment period because of dropping insurance, should be made eligible for BC+ benefits effective June 1. If a worker becomes aware of a pregnant woman with income over 200% of the FPL who was denied BC+ eligibility for June 2009 for dropping health insurance coverage, the woman's eligibility must be re-determined using the CARES process outlined below.

NOTE: This policy change does not affect pregnant women in the BC+ Prenatal Program.

CARES

Until CARES can be programmed to accommodate this change, workers must enter a good cause reason of 'OT' on the Medical Coverage page for the policy that ended within the past three months for the pregnant woman. This will allow BCPP to pass, rather than failing for reason code '281 – Had health plan coverage in the last 3 months'.

For cases where BCPP was terminated or denied for dropping medical coverage and the worker is unable to confirm a Pass to reopen for June forward, a manual certification will have to be done for any months the worker is unable to reopen in CARES. A Manual Positive notice must be sent in this situation.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHS/DHCAA/BEM/JL