

HealthCheck “Other Services” An Important Medicaid Benefit

If your child is covered by Medicaid, you might want to know more about HealthCheck “Other Services” (HCOS). This is a benefit for children that covers items not typically covered by the ForwardHealth card. If you haven’t used it, you’re not alone! In Wisconsin, HCOS has been underused and often difficult to access. The Department of Health Services has recently undertaken new efforts to clarify and streamline HCOS so that providers and families can take advantage of this benefit. This is due, in part, to the strong advocacy efforts of Family Voices, ABC for Health and others.

What is HealthCheck and HealthCheck “Other Services”?

HealthCheck is part of the federal Medicaid benefit for children known as **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment** or EPSDT. It is intended to improve the health of *all* Medicaid eligible children, including those with special physical, emotional, and developmental health care needs. **In Wisconsin, EPSDT is known as HealthCheck.**

An annual exam, or well-child visit, is a physical exam that can help identify health conditions or medical needs. If treatment or services are recommended, but not typically covered under Wisconsin Medicaid, HCOS can cover these services. In this case, your child’s provider must document that the service needed is **medically necessary** and may need to complete a **prior authorization** (PA) request.

HCOS is **NOT** a new program. If children are enrolled in Medicaid programs they can use it to cover needed services and supplies. There isn’t any additional signup or registration needed and there isn’t any extra cost.

Examples of HCOS Covered Services

- ◆ Child and adolescent mental health day treatment,
- ◆ Intensive in-home psychotherapy,
- ◆ Comprehensive behavioral treatment,
- ◆ Orthodontia (braces) and other dental services not typically covered,
- ◆ Certain over-the-counter medications like multivitamins, Vitamin D, laxatives, iron supplements or pediatric electrolyte solution,
- ◆ Special equipment like a car seat for an older child,
- ◆ Shoes to fit over braces and some types of orthotics.

The treatment, service or supply must be identified during the child’s annual exam or other clinic visit, and a prescription must be written by a Medicaid-enrolled provider. The provider may need to complete a PA request.

Who is Eligible for this Benefit?

HCOS can be used to cover services, treatment and supplies for any child, **under age 21**, enrolled in Medicaid programs like Katie Beckett, SSI, Waiver Medicaid, or BadgerCare Plus.

HCOS provides payment for additional health services that are found to be medically necessary. Medical necessity is determined on a case-by-case basis, based on each child’s needs. The service or supply must meet Wisconsin’s definition of medical necessity, which is found at [Wis. Admin. Code § 101.03\(96m\)](#).

Our Family Voices Fact Sheet, *Medicaid HealthCheck Other Services*, has more detail and a step-by-step guide on accessing these services. Resources to get

help and ways to educate your provider are included.

Why the Mystery?

A 2018 survey by the Survival Coalition found that 80% of families and 90% of providers had **no knowledge of HCOS.**



Did You Know? Now You Know!

Prior Authorizations and HealthCheck “Other Services”

Prior authorization (PA) is an approval process used by health plans and Wisconsin Medicaid to decide if a medical service, device or treatment will be covered. It is sometimes called an **authorization request** or **prior approval**.

To have a medical service, treatment or supply covered by **HealthCheck “Other Services,”** the prescribing provider may need to complete a PA request and show that it is **medically necessary** for the child. In the past many providers did not understand the PA process which made them hesitant to submit the required paperwork.

Streamlining the PA Process Under HCOS

In order to increase access, and reduce barriers to using HCOS, the Department of Health Services (DHS) has made changes to the prior authorization process for HCOS. These changes should ease the process of how providers submit PA requests. A few of the changes include:

- ◆ PA requests no longer require “pink cards” or special forms.
- ◆ The provider doesn’t have to identify the request as *HealthCheck “Other Services”* or submit an additional PA for an “exception to coverage” limitation, for example, additional therapy visits or more diapers or other incontinence supplies.
- ◆ For services not routinely covered, the provider can submit PA requests, even when they are unsure what codes and paperwork to submit.

You might find that you need to educate your child’s providers about HCOS. To help you in this situation, DHS made an educational tool for you to share with providers. It can be found at forwardhealth.wi.gov/kw/pdf/2019-08.pdf

To learn more about the PA process see our Family Voices [Prior Authorization](#) Fact Sheet.



Circles of Life Conference

Save the Date

Circles of Life Conference 2020

May 7 and 8

Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Circles of Life is Wisconsin’s annual conference for families who have children with disabilities and the professionals who support them.

The **Call for Presenters** will be open in late August. We encourage **family members** to submit proposals! Check the website for details circlesoflifeconference.com

Parent to Parent has Moved!

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Policy/Budget Update

The Wisconsin Legislature has approved the next state budget and the governor signed it into law. Family Voices is pleased that legislators included funding for the more than 1,000 children waiting for long-term supports. However, they did not approve language in the Medicaid program that would permanently eliminate Children's Long-Term Support Program (CLTS) wait lists. Also included is a statewide eligibility process for Katie Beckett, CLTS and Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) as well as funding for the Child Psychiatry Consultation program.

We are disappointed that legislators did not approve funding for Family Support and Disability Resource Centers. These centers would have included information specialists, benefits counseling and advocacy services, similar to Aging and Disability Resource Centers, but used by the families of children with disabilities. While the budget increases funding for general education and provides for small increases in personal care worker hourly rates, they are far less than the governor or disability advocates requested.

To learn more about the 2019-2021 state budget and its impact on children and adults with disabilities, visit the *Policy* page of our website at familyvoiceswi.org/about-us/policymaking/.

Want to Chip In this Summer?



Family Voices needs your help to keep making a difference in the lives of families. Please donate to Family Voices of Wisconsin.

Mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

Family Voices of Wisconsin, PO Box 5070, Madison WI 53705

or click paypal.me/FamilyVoicesWI.



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800.400.3678

Family Voices Training Schedule

Family Voices and the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Regional Centers will be hosting training sessions for families and providers. These sessions are **free** and registered participants will receive a light meal and a resource binder. Sessions are set for **Manitowoc** on September 26 and **Milwaukee** on October 3, and we're busy planning for many more during Fall/Winter 2019. Check out the [Learn](#) page of our website for regular updates on training dates and locations.

[What's After High School?](#) is a broad overview of the transition to adult life for youth with disabilities and special health care needs.

[Did You Know? Now You Know!](#) explains resources and services for children with disabilities from birth through young adulthood.

[Medicaid Made Easy](#) gives a general understanding of Medicaid programs, funding and what it looks like in Wisconsin.

Contact Lynn, lynn@fvofwi.org, to bring a training to your community.



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What’s Family Voices Been Up To?

From January through May 2019, we held our Family Voices training sessions, including our **What’s After High School?** and **Medicaid Made Easy** trainings, and connected with over **430 parents, families and providers!** We thank everyone who attended our dynamic, face-to-face trainings and learned with us.

Over the next year we’ll continue to offer both in-person and online training opportunities to help more families and professionals learn how to navigate supports and services for children with disabilities. To learn more about all of our training sessions, go to familyvoiceswi.org/learn/.

We’ve also been working closely with the Survival Coalition to **successfully secure funding** to end the wait for access to children’s long-term supports and services and streamline the eligibility process.

About Family Voices

If you have a child with a disability or special health care need, you’ve come to the right place! We’re here to help you **navigate** the services available to your family. It’s a complicated system and our goal is to provide you and your family with some tools. **Connect** with other families, learn how to **advocate** for your child, and discover how you can be a voice for all children with special needs.