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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: 08-56

DATE: 12/30/2008

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"/>
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	

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: Extension of BadgerCare Plus Transitional Grandfather Eligibility

CROSS REFERENCE: Wisconsin State Statutes, §49.471(3)(b)
BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Section 18.6

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE:

This memo communicates a change for any individual who is still eligible for the BadgerCare Plus Transitional Grandfathered (BCPT) program. Effective immediately, the BCPT program has been extended to July 31, 2009.

BACKGROUND

“Transitional Grandfathered” individuals are adult parents of minor children who were eligible for either the BadgerCare program or for regular Family Medicaid in January 2008, and who have been continuously ineligible for BadgerCare Plus (BC+) since February 2008 solely because of excess income. The excess income for these individuals is the result of the BC+ program no longer using the old income budgeting rules.

Rather than making these individuals ineligible for BC+ when the program began in February, the BC+ policy “grandfathered” or continued health care benefits for them for an additional 12 months. However, state law at §49.471(3)(b), stats., provides that the Transitional

Grandfathered eligibility will continue for 18 months. (Legislation intending to change the length of time for the transitional eligibility period to 12 months instead of 18 failed to pass.) Given the statutory language, we must continue the BCPT program until July 31, 2009.

Enrollment records show that we still have over 900 persons eligible for the BCPT program in December.

POLICY CHANGE

Effective immediately, the BCPT program has been extended to July 31, 2009. Any person still eligible for the BCPT program through January 31, 2009, and who continues to meet all non-financial criteria, will remain BCPT eligible until July 31, 2009, unless s/he becomes eligible for BC+, other than as a BCPT enrollee. This change in the end date of the program does not affect anyone who has previously lost BCPT program eligibility.

CARES

CARES was originally programmed with a January 31, 2009, end date for the BCPT program. On the CARES Worker Web (CWW) BC+ Transitional Grandfathering screen, individuals eligible for the BCPT through January 31 will have no date displayed in the Transitional Grandfathering End Date field unless a January 31 override date was entered by central office staff. BCPT assistance groups also had a January 31, 2009 review date.

On December 17, the BCPT end date for all individuals who still had a January 31, 2009 end date was changed to July 31, 2009 in CARES. This date continues to be internal to CARES and does not display on the Transitional Grandfathering screen. The date was also changed to July 31, 2009 for any BCPT person that had a January 31, 2009 override date entered on the Transitional Grandfathering screen and who had not subsequently lost BCPT eligibility.

Finally, the BCPT review date was changed to 7/31/09 for the open BCPT Assistance Groups (AGs). BCPT AGs have a special time-limited type of review date logic in CARES. Completing a review for any BC+ AG will not cause the BCPT review date to change. The intent is for cases with BCPT members to have a review in the month prior to the expiration of their BCPT eligibility. Due to the change of the BCPT review dates to July 31, no BCPT AG will close for failure to complete the review prior to that date.

Since the CARES changes were made on December 17, 2009, the BCPT AGs still open for January already received their review letters / notices that told them that they need to complete reviews by the end of January. For any case which turns in a review, workers are to process the review, enter the reported changes into CWW and redetermine eligibility for BCPT and confirm.

- **Note:** If the reported changes are entered and the individual(s) passes for BC+ other than BCPT, this is correct and BCPT will end.

Because CARES has now been programmed to expect a review in July, 2009, workers should **not** change the BCPT review date on AGOR. If the date is changed on AGOR and the case closes for a 272 reason code, it will be difficult for workers to reopen BCPT and continue the AG's eligibility through July, 2009. If this occurs, you will need to contact the CARES Call Center for assistance with getting BCPT reopened.

For those cases which do not complete a review in January, workers must allow the AG to continue receiving BCPT benefits. **Do not take action to close a BCPT AG for failure to complete a review prior to July 31, 2009.**

For all BCPT individuals still open in June 2009, (including those who completed a review between January and July), CARES will send out a review due notice. A review must be completed by July 31, 2009 to redetermine eligibility for other BC+ or Medicaid.

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