

## ForwardHealth Behavioral Health/Autism Benefit

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Effective Date: **1/1/2016**

Products: **Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire, Group Health Cooperative BadgerCare Plus, Group Health Cooperative Medicaid SSI, CompCare BadgerCare Plus, CompCare Medicaid SSI**

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2016 the Wisconsin Department of Health and Health Services (DHS) will begin coverage of a new behavioral health treatment benefit.

Since July 2014, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required states to provide coverage of autism treatment through each state's Medicaid programs.

The new benefit was first introduced and outlined in the October 2015 update, titled "Provider Enrollment for the New Behavioral Treatment Benefit." This update can be accessed on the ForwardHealth Portal at [forwardhealth.wi.gov](http://forwardhealth.wi.gov).

The behavioral health benefit will be administered fee-for-service for all Medicaid enrolled members who meet medical necessity guidelines for covered services. This benefit is carved out for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid SSI members. Prior authorization requests and claims will be processed by ForwardHealth and not the member's HMO.

This behavioral health benefit does not include screening or diagnostic services such as developmental screening, psychological testing, neuropsychological testing, genetic testing, or other necessary medical evaluations. Please also note that this benefit cannot be provided concurrently with some HMO-covered services, such as mental health day treatment, and certain community services. Because of this, please continue to work with the Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire Health Management Department regarding all services not covered under this benefit as well as to assist with the determination as to whether a patient has an existing authorization for behavioral treatment.

For additional information, please see the ForwardHealth Update, December 2015, No. 2015-62, "New ForwardHealth Behavioral Treatment Benefit."

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Provider Relations at (715) 552-4300.