



Thursday, March 12, 2009

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Fact Sheet: Governor Doyle's Health Care Leadership

Governor Jim Doyle has made ensuring access to affordable health care and providing high-quality services for Wisconsin residents top priorities of his administration. By maximizing state and federal funds and adopting free market principles, Wisconsin is continuing to expand access to health and long term care even in the face of the most challenging fiscal climate in more than a generation. Governor Doyle's approach has focused on simplification and streamlining state programs to reach those in need. Every major health care initiative pursued by Governor Doyle has made "keep it simple" a primary objective.

Some of Wisconsin's key health care initiatives include:

Health Care Coverage for 98 percent of Wisconsin – In January 2006, Governor Jim Doyle stated that no child should ever be without health insurance. Since February 2008, all kids in Wisconsin have been able to get the health care they need at a price their families can afford through BadgerCare Plus.

BadgerCare Plus allows every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, to have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for their kids. In addition, BadgerCare Plus also offers coverage for more pregnant women, self-employed parents and farmers, and youth aging out of foster care. BadgerCare Plus is a simple program that promotes prevention and healthy behavior. Starting July 1, 2009 Governor Doyle is expanding this program to include income-eligible adults without dependent children.

Since its inception, BadgerCare Plus has enrolled 107,055 Wisconsin residents (69,084 of whom are children) who were not previously enrolled in the BadgerCare program. As of January 2009, the program had a total of 590,975 members.

Low Cost Prescription Drugs for 90,000 Seniors – Wisconsin's SeniorCare program is a one-of-a-kind initiative that provides low cost prescription drugs for 90,000 seniors for less than half the cost of Medicare Part D since 2002.

SeniorCare is cheaper, easier to apply for and provides better drug coverage than Medicare Part D. The annual federal cost per enrollee for SeniorCare is \$588, less than half the average Part D beneficiary cost of \$1,690, saving taxpayers and the federal government more than \$90 million dollars each year. The State of Wisconsin is also able to leverage additional savings because it can use its bargaining power to negotiate the lowest prices for prescription drugs.

Through SeniorCare, Wisconsin has led the way in keeping its programs simple and easy to understand. Unlike Part D, SeniorCare has a simple enrollment process, a \$30 annual enrollment fee, an income-based deductible and copayments of \$5 for generic drugs or \$15 for brand drugs. SeniorCare also does not have a strict enrollment period or enrollment penalty, nor do members face the infamous "donut hole" that hurts far too many seniors under Part D. There is also no asset test for SeniorCare enrollees who are only required to fill out a simple one page application form.

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Caring for More People in Community Settings for Less – Under Governor Doyle’s leadership, in 2007, Wisconsin began the statewide expansion of a long-term care pilot program known as Family Care. Family Care serve elders and people with disabilities with a need for a nursing home level of care. The program is a Medicaid managed care entitlement that provides access to home and community-based long term care, or skilled nursing care, without delay. This approach results in lower monthly costs per member– saving the Wisconsin Medicaid program an average of \$450 per month per person. Because Family Care serves all who are eligible, Wisconsin is well on its way to eliminating waiting lists for home and community based long term care services.

Family Care works because Wisconsin has established business systems, data collection and quality oversight necessary for a program serving our most vulnerable citizens. Through Family Care, Wisconsin offers the state’s frail seniors and people with disabilities long term care that is built around choice of outcomes and access to high quality services, in a cost-effective manner.

Purchasing Quality Health Care for Medicaid Members – Since January 1, 2009, all health plans or HMOs participating in Medicaid are required to take part in the Pay-for-Performance (P4P) initiative. P4P ties financial incentives to performance as a means of holding HMOs accountable for the quality of health care provided to the Medicaid population through their networks.

P4P is an important step in creating health plan and provider accountability for outcomes and transforming the Medicaid program into a value-based purchaser of improved health outcomes. It improves the performance of the health care delivery system as well as improving the health care outcomes of Medicaid members.

Cutting Costs and Improving Quality Through 21st Century Technology – Health information technology is helping Wisconsin reduce health care costs and improve quality. Governor Doyle’s health care agenda includes supporting the adoption of electronic medical records by Wisconsin’s health care providers and promoting electronic health information exchange.

In 2005, Governor Doyle created the eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board, which adopted a plan to promote statewide adoption of electronic health records and exchange of health information. In addition, three of the leading providers of electronic medical records systems – Epic Systems, GE and the Marshfield Clinic – are all located in Wisconsin. The Department of Health Services has also been a key player in the linking of emergency departments in Milwaukee, ensuring that emergency room clinicians get up to date information about a patient’s recent medical visits, procedures, and prescriptions at any linked facility around the Milwaukee metropolitan area. The Wisconsin Health Information Organization has collected claims data on 1.5 million Wisconsin lives, including an objective evaluation of the overall quality and cost-effectiveness of the care received by those patients.

Key Statistics

- **98** – percentage of Wisconsin residents that will be insured under Gov. Doyle’s plans
- **2nd** – Wisconsin’s national ranking in health insurance coverage
- **Over 107,000** – new enrollees in BadgerCare Plus since 2008
- **Nearly 70,000** – number of children enrolled in BadgerCare Plus during that time
- **Over \$90 million** – annual savings to taxpayers and federal government under Senior Care
- **90,000** – Wisconsin seniors who depend on Senior Care for prescription access
- **\$450** – average monthly Medicaid savings per person under Family Care