

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT2023161 NOVEMBER 9, 2023

IHCP clarifies *locum tenens* healthcare providers

The Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) clarifies *locum tenens* policy that applies to healthcare providers. Providers can create a *locum tenens* arrangement when the regular healthcare provider must leave their practice due to illness, vacation or medical education opportunity and does not want to leave their patients without care during this period.

The regular healthcare provider may be the member's primary care healthcare provider or primary medical provider (PMP), or a specialist that a member sees on a regular basis. The *locum tenens* must be the **same discipline** as the regular healthcare provider.

The *locum tenens* policy applies to the following healthcare providers according to the *Social Security Act United States Code 42 USC §1395x(r)*:

- Doctor of medicine or osteopathy
- Dentist
- Optometrist
- Podiatrist
- Chiropractor



Providers use the *locum tenens* arrangement in a single or a group practice, but the *locum tenens* healthcare provider cannot be a member of the group in which the regular healthcare provider is a member. The *locum tenens* healthcare provider usually has no practice of their own and moves from area to area as needed. The healthcare provider is usually paid a fixed per diem amount with the status of an independent contractor, not an employee. The *locum tenens* healthcare provider must meet all the requirements for practice in Indiana, as well as all the hospital or other institutional credentialing requirements before providing care to IHCP members. The healthcare provider providing *locum tenens* care is not required to be an IHCP provider.

The regular healthcare provider's office must maintain documentation of the *locum tenens* arrangement, including what care was rendered and when it was provided. The regular healthcare provider's office personnel submit claims for the *locum tenens* care using the regular healthcare provider's National Provider Identifier (NPI) and modifier Q6 for applicable procedure codes.

Locum tenens arrangements should not exceed 90 consecutive days. If the healthcare provider is away from their practice for more than 90 days, a new locum tenens would be necessary. If a locum tenens provider remains in the same practice for more than 90 days, they must enroll as an IHCP provider.

Table 1 summarizes the requirements of IHCP *locum tenens* policy.

Table 1 – Summary of locum tenens policy

Requirement	<i>Locum tenens</i> healthcare providers
Must be enrolled as an IHCP provider	No *Yes, if they remain in the same practice for more than 90 days
May be employed by the same group as the regular healthcare provider	No
Claims are submitted by the regular healthcare provider’s office and that office receives payment	Yes
Modifier required to identify arrangement	Yes, Q6
Maximum time frame allowed	90 days

Questions regarding coverage for all fee-for-service (FFS) IHCP-enrolled members, billing and reimbursement should be directed to Gainwell Technologies at 800-457-4584. Questions about FFS PA should be directed to Kepro Customer Service at 866-725-9991.

Questions about managed care coverage, PA, billing and reimbursement should be directed to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Customer Assistance at 800-457-4584.

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