

## PROVIDER BULLETIN

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### Assistant Physician

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#### Assistant Physician

As announced in the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 provider information [bulletin](#), Senate Bill (SB) 716 passed by the 97th General Assembly allowed an assistant physician (AP) to become a MO HealthNet provider while acting under a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician. APs have been limited to submitting claims for service reimbursement through the collaborating physician.

This bulletin is to notify providers that effective for dates of service on or after January 7, 2019, APs may submit claims under their own National Provider Identifier (NPI).

#### Program Updates

Previous guidance states that an AP:

- has successfully completed Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the equivalent of such steps of any other board-approved medical licensing examination within the two-year period immediately preceding application for licensure as an AP, but in no event more than three years after;
- has not completed an approved postgraduate residency and has successfully completed Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the equivalent of such step of any other board-approved medical licensing examination within the immediately preceding two-year period, unless when such two-year anniversary occurred he or she was serving as a resident physician in an accredited residency in the United States and continued to do so within thirty days prior to application for licensure as an AP.

Changes were made to the licensing guidelines and now an AP:

- has to have successfully completed Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the equivalent of such step of any other board-approved medical licensing examination within the three-year period immediately preceding application for licensure as an assistant physician, or within three years after graduation from a medical college or osteopathic medical college, whichever is later;
- has not completed an approved postgraduate residency and has successfully completed Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination or the equivalent of such step of any other board-approved medical licensing examination within the immediately preceding three-year period unless when such three-year anniversary occurred he or she was serving as a resident physician in an accredited residency in the United States and continued to do so within thirty days prior to application for licensure as an assistant physician.

### **Provider Enrollment Information**

MO HealthNet AP enrollment packets, as well as additional enrollment information, are available at <https://mmac.mo.gov/providers/provider-enrollment/new-providers/provider-enrollment-forms/>.

Managed Care enrolled providers should contact their Managed Care Organizations with questions regarding APs.

**Provider Bulletins** are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

**MO HealthNet News:** Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the MO HealthNet ID card.

**Provider Communications Hotline  
573-751-2896**