

Hospital-Based Practitioners

In many cases, radiologists, pathologists, anesthesiologists, CRNAs, and emergency room physicians practice exclusively in a hospital or other facility setting. When the hospital has an employment or contracting relationship with these practitioners, Wellmark expects that the hospital and the hospital-based providers will participate in the same products.

How to bill hospital-based practitioners' services

If the hospital chooses to submit claims for these practitioners using the hospital's taxpayer ID number, it must complete a provider group agreement that is consistent with the contract(s) the hospital has already signed with Wellmark.

Provide a list of all the practitioners covered under the group agreement. Each practitioner will need to complete the appropriate application (see page 2) in order to provide and bill services performed at the hospital.

A hospital may also have a staffing arrangement with their hospital-based practitioners. As part of this arrangement, each practitioner bills for his/her professional component for the service using his/her individual and/or group National Provider Identification (NPI) number. Under this type of arrangement, Wellmark needs a direct contract completed by the practitioner, or the practitioner's group, or, in Iowa only, by the PHO or PO.

Locum Tenens

A locum tenens is a physician who fills in for another physician while he/she is temporarily away from his/her practice. If a locum tenens is filling in for a physician for less than 60 days, he/she may bill for services under the permanent physician's Wellmark billing number and/or NPI.

However, if a physician leaves a practice and someone is hired to temporarily fill the vacancy until a new physician is found, that "replacement physician" must get his/her own Wellmark provider number and his/her own NPI, and establish his/her own contracting relationship with Wellmark.

Participation Through an Employment Relationship

Explanation of an employer/employee relationship

An eligible provider may choose to employ practitioners to assist in practice workloads. An employment relationship usually involves one of the following:

- an eligible practitioner who has his/her own Wellmark and/or NPI number, but besides practicing independently, is also employed;
- a practitioner who Wellmark does not consider an eligible provider, but holds a license to provide health care services.