



**PROVIDER BULLETIN**  
**#24-2018**

**TO:** Participating hospitals

**FROM:** Provider Network Services

**DATE:** December 12, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Important reminder: Billing standards for outpatient facility claims

On October 29, 2018, Independence announced via Provider Bulletin #20-2018 that we will require that our participating facilities bill with the appropriate modifiers when submitting *all* outpatient claims. We remain committed to providing our employer-sponsored self-funded health plans with transparency regarding billing of health care services rendered to their employees. Ensuring provider use of appropriate modifier billing is an essential component toward this goal.

To date, Independence has only required appropriate modifier billing for those facilities who are reimbursed according to Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APC). However, in moving towards claim submissions following industry standard billing rules, we are requiring that our participating facilities bill with the appropriate modifiers when submitting *all* outpatient claims for Independence members, not just APC claim submissions.

We understand this is a change to a long-standing billing practice. Therefore, we are providing a notice period of at least 90 days where modifiers will not be required. However, it is recommended that participating facilities begin billing in the industry standard manner during this time, prior to our system enforcement, to ensure readiness for the effective date of the change.

Please work with your billing department to update your claim submission practices to ensure your systems are compliant with industry standard outpatient modifier billing guidelines, such as those outlined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We are currently monitoring billing activity and will be conducting outreach in January to facilities who have not yet used modifier submissions on outpatient claims.

If you have additional questions about this bulletin, please contact us at [claimedquestions@ibx.com](mailto:claimedquestions@ibx.com).

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**We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.**