



April 2019

BLUE CROSS CHANGING PRACTITIONER FEES JULY 1

BCBSM will change practitioner fees with dates of service on or after July 1, 2019. This change applies to services provided to our *Traditional*, *TRUST* and *Blue Preferred Plus* members regardless of customer group. PPR will review your fees against the new BCBSM fees to make sure that your fees are higher than the new rates. Although some of our providers like to set their prices lower, nonetheless we will let you know if your charge is lower than the new fee schedule.

GLOBAL SURGICAL PACKAGES

Remember that in many cases a surgical procedure has a global period. This means that pre- and post- operative services are included in the fee paid for the procedure. The pre-op period is 1 day before the procedure. The post-op period can vary depending on the procedure and can be 0, 10, or 90 days. Evaluation and management services performed during the global period are not separately payable when related to the procedure. Most diagnostic tests are *not* included in the global package. Please call us if you have any questions.

BILLING FOR LOCUM TENENS

PPR receives frequent questions regarding how to bill for "locum tenens." Locum tenens billing applies when a physician is filling in for another physician for a short amount of time. Examples include vacation, family leave, or maternity leave. The maximum amount of time that a locum tenens can be billed for is 60 days. Locum tenens billing cannot be used as a substitute for physician enrollment. The regular physician must be unavailable. Use a Q6 modifier when billing for a locum tenens physician

FEEDBACK REGARDING PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY

Many PPR clients are enjoying the on-line payment option for their patients' convenience when paying bills. Please let us know how you are doing with this service and if there are features or improvements you would like to see. If you are not using the on-line option please call us to learn how to begin using this helpful service. Also, remember that PPR has a series of collection letters that you can customize to send to patients who get behind on their balance.

And remember, we're here to help you. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.