

## HOT TOPIC

# ATTENTION PROVIDERS: CHANGES OCCURRING FOR LOCUM TENENS SERVICE TIME FRAMES

Effective August 22, 2017, locum tenens service time frames may not exceed 60 consecutive days for Medicare Advantage or commercial networks. Highmark requires all physicians who provide services to our members to be credentialed and contracted. However, under certain circumstances, Highmark allows for locum tenens arrangements. A locum tenens provider is defined as a practitioner who is covering for another practitioner when they are absent for reasons of illness, retirement, death, medical leave, vacation, military leave or continuing medical education.

If a regular physician is absent longer than 60 days without returning to work, the locum tenens must be credentialed and enrolled as if he or she were joining your practice as a new physician.