

# SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS

OCT. 23, 2018

## ORDERING PROVIDERS CANNOT BILL FOR PURCHASED SERVICES

Purchased services occur when the ordering provider requests and bills for services that were not performed by the ordering physician or medical group.

Highmark's new reimbursement policy, Purchased Services, prohibits providers from billing Highmark's Commercial members for charges related to the provision of purchased services. Further clarification of this reimbursement guideline is found below.

The patient's physician may perform the professional component (interpretation); however, that physician may also purchase the technical component from another entity. The provider that performs the professional services, including the professional component (interpretation) of diagnostic tests, must always report them. A provider may not report a professional service that is performed by another entity.

### REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES FOR OUTSIDE REFERENCE LABORATORY SERVICES

Providers should bill only for the component of the laboratory service they perform in their offices. Providers should refer laboratory services that cannot be performed in their office to laboratories that participate with Highmark. Laboratory services ordered by, **but not performed** by the ordering provider are not eligible for reimbursement. Independent laboratories should bill Highmark separately for any clinical lab tests referred to them by providers.

Only independent labs should report modifier 90 — Reference (Outside) Laboratory — when they send certain tests to a reference lab. The name, address, and CLIA number of both the referring and reference laboratories must be included on the claim. **The ordering provider should not report modifier 90** for services performed by an outside laboratory.

The new policy becomes effective on Dec. 17, 2018.

### WEB LOCATION OF HIGHMARK'S PURCHASED SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You can review Highmark's Reimbursement Policy RP-045, Purchased Services, on the Provider Resource Center.

Reimbursement policies are located on the Provider Resource Center as an option under **Claims, Payment & Reimbursement**. Select **Reimbursement Policy** to review Highmark's reimbursement policies. As new reimbursement policies are developed, they will be added to the **Reimbursement Policy** page.

