



Regence |

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April 24, 2013

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2902 and definition of independent practitioner

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

Your committee is considering HB 2902-A, which is intended to require insurers to reimburse physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners in independent practices at the same rate as a physician for same services. The amendment adopted by the House Committee on Health Care defines "independent practice" physician assistants or nurse practitioners as those who bill insurers for services using their "own name and national provider identifier."

A national provider identifier (NPI) does not determine if a practitioner is independent. Rather, it is a unique identifier. The NPI does not replace a tax payer identification number (TIN), which identifies the business entity. TINs continue to be required on all claims – paper and electronic – and an independent provider would have to use both the NPI and TIN when billing insurers.

On the other hand, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant working for a group or clinic setting would bill under his or her unique NPI but use the group or clinic TIN.

Sincerely,

Alison Goldwater
Vice President, Provider Services
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon