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Dear Laboratory Provider,

Your provider type requires an actively enrolled individual National Provider Identifier (NPI) for an Ordering, Prescribing or Referring (OPR) provider in the Referring Provider field of the CMS 1500 professional claim form. The Referring Provider field on the CMS 1500 claim form is 17b.

Providers are reminded to include OPR providers on claims and to ensure the OPR provider is currently enrolled with Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program). All OPR providers indicated on a claim ***must be actively enrolled as an individual with Health First Colorado*** (42 CFR § 455.410(b)).

Claims with services requiring OPR providers will post Explanation of Benefits (EOB) 1997 – "The referring, ordering, prescribing or attending provider is missing or not enrolled. Please resubmit with a valid individual NPI in the attending field" if the OPR provider is missing or not enrolled with Health First Colorado.

This EOB is an informational message at present, but it will cause claims to deny in the future if claims are not compliant.

Refer to the [Laboratory Services Billing Manual](#) on the [Billing Manuals web page](#) or visit the [Ordering, Prescribing and Referring Claim Identifier Project web page](#) for more information.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
