



Dear Vision Services Provider,

It is anticipated that effective April 1, 2025, Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) will begin editing vision services claims for compliance with federal Ordering, Prescribing and Referring (OPR) regulations (42 CFR § 455.440).

The following providers are eligible to **order, prescribe or refer** vision services when enrolled with Health First Colorado and licensed by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) or the licensing agency of the state in which they do business: Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, and Physicians.

The following providers are eligible to **render** vision services when enrolled with Health First Colorado and licensed by the DORA or the licensing agency of the state in which they do business: Optometrists, Ophthalmologists and Opticians. The OPR provider indicated on the claim **must** be actively enrolled with Health First Colorado (42 CFR § 455.410(b)). If the indicated provider is not actively enrolled the claim will be denied.

It is important for OPR providers to understand the implications of failing to enroll in Health First Colorado. The providers who render services to Health First Colorado members based on the order, prescription, or referral from an OPR provider will not be reimbursed for such items or services unless the OPR provider is enrolled.

Stakeholder engagement sessions will be conducted to communicate the upcoming mandate on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. MT, Monday, November 18, 2024, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. MT and Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. MT. Visit the [Ordering, Prescribing, and Referring \(OPR\) Requirements for Vision Services Stakeholder Engagement Session web page](#) for more information about these sessions, including how to register. Providers are highly encouraged to [sign up to receive Department communications](#).

Vision providers are reminded to include the OPR providers on claims and to ensure the OPR provider is currently enrolled with Health First Colorado. The OPR field on the CMS 1500 professional claim form is 17b and in fields 76-79 on UB-04 professional claim form. Claims with services requiring OPR provider(s) 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 National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the attending field", if the

---

OPR provider is not enrolled with Health First Colorado. Claims are not currently set to “deny” for a missing OPR field.

Below is a visual example of the CMS 1500 claim form with an indicator of where the NPI number should be populated:

The image shows a portion of a CMS 1500 claim form. A large red arrow points from the left towards field 17b, NPI. The form includes fields for dates of illness, center dates, dates patient unable to work, referring provider name, hospitalization dates, and additional claim information.

UB-04 outpatient hospital claims would populate the required NPI in the attending provider field (#76) or the Other ID field (#78 or #79). The following is a visual example of where the OPR NPI must be populated:

The image shows a UB-04 outpatient hospital claim form. Red arrows point to fields 76 (Attending), 78 (Other), and 79 (Other), which are used for NPI population. The form includes fields for patient ID, dates of service, procedure codes, and provider information.

The OPR mandate is not currently denying claims for missing OPR National Provider Identifiers (NPIs), however, missing OPR NPI’s will result in claims denials beginning April 1, 2025.

Contact the [Provider Services Call Center](#) with any questions about claims denials.

Policy questions should be directed to Christina Winship at [Christina.Winship@state.co.us](mailto:Christina.Winship@state.co.us).

Refer to the [Vision Care and Eyewear Manual](#) for more information on billing vision claims.

Visit the [Ordering, Prescribing, and Referring Claim Identifier Project web page](#) for more information about OPR requirements.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing