



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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Governor

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Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1596

**DATE:** December 29, 2015

**TO:** All Iowa Medicaid Providers (Excluding Individual Consumer-Directed Attendant Care (CDAC) Providers)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Final Reminder: All Ordering, Prescribing and Referring Providers Must be Enrolled with Iowa Medicaid

**EFFECTIVE:** January 4, 2016

On January 4, 2016, all pharmacy claims submitted to the IME with a prescribing National Provider Identifier (NPI) that is not enrolled with the Iowa Medicaid program will be denied. This will impact all medications processed through the Pharmacy Point of Sale (POS) system including refills on maintenance medications. The most recent reminder was in [Informational Letter 1564](#)<sup>1</sup>.

It is important to note this requirement impacts all Iowa Medicaid members. Not enrolling with Iowa Medicaid can delay member access to vital medications and cause unnecessary complications.

Regulations within the Affordable Care Act (ACA) intended to strengthen the integrity of each state's Medicaid program, require that providers who prescribe (order) or are indicated as a referring provider on a Medicaid claim must be enrolled as participating providers in the program. No provider type or facility is exempt from this requirement. The requirement subjects referring or prescribing providers to the same Medicaid screening and verification processes as all other providers indicated on a claim. This helps ensure the integrity of the payment.

Iowa Medicaid already requires referring or prescribing NPIs on claims for consultation, independent lab or durable medical equipment (DME) as announced in [Informational Letter 1330](#)<sup>2</sup>. Please reference the current [claim form instructions](#)<sup>3</sup> found on the DHS website for these requirements.

In August 2012, the IME began to send notices about this requirement to all unenrolled providers who either prescribe and/or refer Medicaid members. Any organization with licensed medical professionals such as; residents, physician assistants or dentists that are not enrolled with the IME should enroll, at minimum, as a referring/prescribing provider. More information is available on the [Provider Enrollment web page](#)<sup>4</sup>. Providers may enroll as an ordering/prescribing provider by completing the [Ordering/Referring Provider Enrollment Application](#)<sup>5</sup>.

The IME appreciates your continued partnership as we work to implement the ACA and improve program accountability. If you have any questions please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at [IMEproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:IMEproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).

<sup>1</sup>[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1564\\_Reminder\\_All%20Ordering\\_Prescribing\\_Referring\\_Providers\\_Must\\_-%20be\\_Enrolled\\_with-IowaMedicaid.pdf](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1564_Reminder_All%20Ordering_Prescribing_Referring_Providers_Must_-%20be_Enrolled_with-IowaMedicaid.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1330%20Referring%20or%20Prescribing%20Providers%20Must%20be%20Enrolled%20with%20Medicaid.pdf>

<sup>3</sup><http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/claims-and-billing>

<sup>4</sup><http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/enrollment/providerenrollment>

<sup>5</sup>[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-5111%20ver%202-13\\_0.pdf](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-5111%20ver%202-13_0.pdf)