



## LAB BILLING GUIDELINES FAQS FOR HOSPITALS

Question: Can the hospital submit a claim for the collection of the sample if that was the only service it provided?

**Answer: No. If the hospital only obtained the sample and provided no other service, i.e. individual was not a bona-fide inpatient or outpatient, then the hospital would not submit a claim. The lab provider who performed the service(s) would submit the claim.**

Question: If the hospital performs a CT scan and also collects the sample, but sends the sample to a lab provider to perform the lab services, what services should it submit on its claim?

**Answer: In this example, the individual is a bona-fide hospital outpatient due to the hospital performing the additional service, i.e. the CT scan. The hospital should submit the CT scan and the lab services performed by the lab provider on its claim. The lab provider would not submit a claim to BCBSOK.**

Question: When the hospital collects the sample, performs at least one of the lab services but is not equipped to perform all of the lab services and must send the services it cannot perform to a lab provider, how should the claim(s) be submitted?

**Answer: Since the hospital performed at least one of the lab services, it would submit a claim for all of the lab services. The lab provider would not submit a claim.**

Question: Can the hospital bill for services provided by a lab provider when it has a billing arrangement or affiliation with the lab provider?

**Answer: The hospital may only submit a claim for services performed by another lab provider when the individual is a bona-fide inpatient or outpatient of hospital as described in the Hospital Billing Guidelines for Laboratory Services. The hospital may not act only as a billing agent, billing for services under its BCBSOK agreement, when another provider renders services.**

Question: Does BCBSOK have preferred labs?

**Answer: Diagnostic Laboratory of Oklahoma (DLO) and Regional Medical Laboratories (RML) are the preferred statewide providers for outpatient clinical laboratory services. Both laboratories have multiple locations statewide, full-time pathologists on staff and convenient technology that provides access to prompt lab results. Please note that DLO and RML are not the only network laboratories available to BCBSOK members, although members and providers are encouraged to use these two preferred laboratories.**