



COVID-19 Credentialing Updates

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Locum Tenens (temporary workers)

The locum tenens policy has been changed to state locum tenens/temporary workers can work in the network for a cumulative lifetime total of six months without being credentialed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Verification of a valid license and a check for exclusions from state and federal programs will still be completed prior to the practitioner seeing HealthPartners members.

Clinics may submit a [Minnesota Uniform Practitioner Change Form](#) to credentialing@healthpartners.com to begin the process of getting their locums added to the network. Ideally, clinics should submit an initial credentialing application if they believe their locum tenens may need to work in the network beyond 6 months. The credentialing department will set them up immediately as a locums and then work to complete their full credentialing. If a credentialing application is not submitted in the beginning, the clinic should submit one at least 60 days prior to the 6 month expiration.

Practitioners who have exhausted their locum tenens eligibility may not practice in any capacity in the HealthPartners network without first being credentialed

Licenses in Each State Where Providing Patient Care

Q: Will HPI be adopting the CMS guidance which indicates a provider does not need to be licensed in the state they are practicing during the COVID-10 emergency?

A: We are following the state licensing board requirements. These requirements vary from state to state.

Recredentialing

Q: Is HPI considering delaying recredentialing until after the COVID-19 Emergency?

A: Although NCQA has extended the recredentialing cycle length from 36-38 months, CMS has not yet extended it. We will continue to attempt to recredential practitioners within 36 months and allow as much time as possible for practitioners to complete the recredentialing process. We will continue to monitor for guidance from NCQA and CMS.

Practitioner redeployments in response to COVID-19

Q: We are redeploying practitioners to different locations as part of our response to COVID-19; do we need to submit these changes to HealthPartners?

A: No. Temporary practitioner location changes related to your COVID-19 response do not need to be submitted to HealthPartners. HealthPartners will make sure claims are paid for all practitioners that are credentialed and enrolled with HealthPartners regardless of address where care is provided during this emergency situation.