



# Behavioral Health Practitioners Licensure, Certification, and Credentialing



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## **Mission:**

The mission of the Department of Community Health is to provide access to affordable, quality health care to Georgians through effective planning, purchasing, and oversight.

# Who can Enroll as a Behavioral Health Provider?

- Physician (Psychiatrist)
- Board Certified Behavioral Analyst-BCBA or BCBA-D (Autism Services)
- Psychologist
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (MSW)



# Licensure & Credentialing Overview

- Licensure is the process for professional to be deemed eligible to practice in his or her field in Georgia
- Credentialing is a separate process to deem a provider as an eligible Medicaid provider



# Licensure

- Licensure is processed by the independent licensing body for each provider type:
  - Physician (Psychiatrist): Georgia Composite Medical Board
  - Psychologist: State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
  - Marriage and Family Therapist: Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists
  - Licensed Professional Counselor: Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists
  - Licensed Clinical Social Worker (MSW): Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists



# Certification

- Some provider types are “certified” rather than “licensed”:
  - Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA or BCBA-D) (Autism Services): Behavioral Analyst Certification Board
  - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner: Board of Nursing and certification via American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)



# Credentialing

- Credentialing is the formal review of qualifications and other relevant information, including the background and legitimacy assessment, of a provider who has applied to participate in the State's Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids program and/or Georgia Families and Georgia Families 360°, the latter as part of a contracted CMO's plan network.
- Verisys, a NCQA certified Credentialing Verification Organization (CVO), performs primary source verifications and maintains the Credentialing Committee for DCH.



# Credentialing

- Credentialing standards apply to the following practitioners:
  - All licensed practitioners or groups of practitioners who provide care to the organization's members
  - Non-physician practitioners
  - Facilities
- Streamlined credentialing process with a single point of entry
- Fee-For-Service and Managed Care providers are credentialed and recredentialed
- Care Management Organizations (CMOs) delegate credentialing authority to DCH
- Electronic Process (online enrollment)
- One Credentialing Committee
- CMOs receive a credentialing/recredentialing packet which contains credentialing information and credentialing decision
- Providers are notified of their credentialing status via the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) or by certified letter





# Credentialing Activities

- Confirm receipt of and verify Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Verify licenses and certifications with all required licensing boards and authorities, including those in other states
- Verify practitioner Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Protocol Agreement and/or Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) certification
- Verify practitioner education (highest level), training, and work history, including any gaps of six months or greater
- Record/verify practitioner malpractice insurance coverage and claims history
- Verify social security numbers and dates of death for the individual practitioner, owners, authorized officials, delegated officials, and supervising physicians
- Verify Hospital Privileges
- Validate Medicare providers using Medicare's Provider Enrollment Chain Ownership System (PECOS)
- Conduct review of fraud and abuse sanctions against the provider
- Provide a Credentialing Committee Review
- Periodically review the checklist requirements against the NCQA guidelines and ACA requirements to ensure compliance



# Credentialing Committee

- Committee Makeup:
  - Chief Medical Director (1) – voting rights
  - Associate Medical Directors (4) – voting rights
  - DCH Representative (1) – voting rights
  - CMO Representatives (3) – voting rights
  - Credentialing Coordinator
  - Peer Expert Specialists (As Needed)
  - Peer Expert Non-Physician Practitioners (As Needed)
- Each member serves for a one-year period; membership automatically renews
- Credentialing Committee will reflect, to the extent possible, the provider mix of the Fee-For- Service, Georgia Families, and Georgia Families 360° population
- Credentialing Committee meets regularly (no less than once per month)



# CMO Contracting Process

- Credentialing and contracting are separate and distinct:
  - Successful credentialing does not guarantee a provider will be enrolled in a CMO's network.
  - Upon receipt of a credentialing decision, CMOs are expected to expedite the contracting process.
  - CMOs may not use the contracting process to circumvent a credentialing decision.



# Questions?

## Contact:

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# Purpose:

Shaping the future of A Healthy Georgia by improving access and ensuring quality to strengthen the communities we serve.