


P/P TITLE: Board Certification for Licensed Healthcare Providers	P/P #: 200.614	PAGE: 1 of 3	ORIGINAL DATE: 05/28/2009	REVISED DATE: 4/28/2016
REVIEWED BY: QRSCC/Executive Committee			APPROVED BY: 	

References

[MedicineNet.com](http://www.MedicineNet.com)

Purpose

In an effort to ensure and promote quality, CHRISTUS Physician Group (CPG) will employ physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs), collectively referred to as Licensed Healthcare Providers (LHPs) who are Board Certified unless an exception is granted pursuant to this policy.

Policy

It is the policy that all CPG LHPs providing clinical care are, and will remain, Board Certified.

Definitions

Board Certification (BC): a LHP has taken and passed a medical specialty examination in:

- MDs and DOs - the clinical Specialty/Sub-specialty of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and/or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) aligned with the physician's CPG clinical practice; or, otherwise fulfills the requirements of "Board Certification" *as defined by* that same clinically aligned ABMS Specialty/Sub-specialty Board.
- APCs – the applicable certifying body for the APC type, including:
 - Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner (APRN) -- the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), National Certification Corporation (NCC), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), American Association for Critical Care Nurses (AACCN), or Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
 - Physician Assistant (PA) - National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
 - PhD – American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)
 - Other Boards as deemed applicable by the QRSCC

Board Eligible (BE): a physician who has not successfully completed his/her certification exam within the time period established by the specialty board after successful completion of an ACGME/AOA accredited residency training program; or, a physician who was previously Board Certified but has not completed the Board requirement to successfully complete a recertification examination.

REVIEW PERIOD:	REVIEW DATES:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual	10/09/09	8/26/10	2/26/15	7/23/2015	1/28/2016	4/28/2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Biennial (2 years)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:						

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Continuing Education (CE): CE programs, inclusive of both Continuing Medical Education (CMEs) and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as applicable per provider type, are intended to continue the medical education of LHPs to retain their professional licenses. They may do so by taking courses, attending medical conferences or in some cases by reading and taking a test.

Procedures

A. Board Certification/Board Eligible Status

1. No Letter of Intent (LOI), Employment Agreement (EA), or Independent Contractor Agreement will be offered to any LHP that is not, or does not maintain, BC status without the written consent of the Medical Director in consultation with the Chief Physician Executive (CPE).
2. BC and/or BE status will be confirmed with the corresponding Board at the time of hire and with each credentialing cycle.

B. Exceptions to BC/BE Status

a. APC Providers –

- i. **CPG requires all APCs to maintain at all times applicable Board Certification.** Exceptions will be considered by the Medical Director in consultation with the CPE on a case-by-case basis. **MD and DO Providers** – Exceptions will be considered by the Medical Director in consultation with the CPE on a case-by-case basis, for a physician already employed and credentialed in good standing with CHRISTUS Health, or to a physician that meets all other qualifications for CPG employment, including maintenance of licensure under B.3. below, and provides a needed medical service that is not sufficiently represented in that community.
- ii. The reason(s) cited for allowing exceptions to the BC/BE status will be documented in the physician's credentialing materials and must be reviewed and approved by the Medical Director in consultation with the CPE and the Credentialing Committee (QRSCC) at each credentialing cycle.
- iii. Physicians who are not BC/BE will be obligated to:
 1. Submit a completed "Board Certification Status Review" (BCSR) form to be submitted to QRSCC for an understanding of either:
 - a. The detailed plan to obtain Board Certification; or,
 - b. Detailed information on why the Physician requests the QRSCC to consider a potential exemption.
 2. For initial appointment, provide three (3) Peer References which shall complete the CPG Peer Reference questionnaire for submission at the time of QRSCC review.
 3. For reappointment, provide three (3) Peer References completed by local community Physicians and/or CPG Physicians to complete a CPG Peer Reference questionnaire for submission at the time of QRSCC review.
 4. Obtain and document in the BCSR submission at least the minimum:
 - a. CME requirements for maintenance of licensure (MOL) by the appropriate state medical board; or,

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- b. CME requirements of the appropriate Subspecialty Board of the ABMS or equivalent Osteopathic Board;

C. Expenses

1. Reasonable expenses for APC provider types directly related to testing for certification/recertification as well as Continuing Education (CEs) will be reimbursed by CPG in accordance with the HR Policy – “Reimbursement of Professional Business Expense to Licensed Healthcare Practitioners (LHP) Policy – CHPG and CPG.”
2. Reimbursement for MD and DO provider types shall have access for reimbursement with a maximum of two (2) attempts per certification/recertification. Reimbursable expenses include travel, lodging and exam fees subject to the provisions outlined in HR Policy – “Reimbursement of Professional Business Expense to Licensed Healthcare Practitioners (LHP) Policy – CHPG and CPG.” Note that these expenses are over and above the limits noted in above referenced policy. In the event of a dispute as to the determination of reasonable expense, the CFO of CPG will be the final arbiter.

Attachments

None