



Policy: GG.1633
Title: **Board Certification Requirements for Physicians**
Department: Medical Management
Section: Quality Improvement

CEO Approval: /s/ Michael Hunn 11/22/2024

Effective Date: 01/01/2008

Revised Date: 11/01/2024

Applicable to: ☒ Medi-Cal
☒ OneCare
☒ PACE
☐ Administrative

I. PURPOSE

This policy describes CalOptima Health's requirement for board certification of contracted physicians.

II. POLICY

- A. A contracted physician shall be board certified within five (5) years following the date upon which that contracted physician completes their residency, with the exception of any contracted physician whose board certification time requirement is shorter or longer than the foregoing in which case such shorter or longer period shall apply. For example, a contracted podiatric physician shall be board certified within seven (7) years following the date upon which that contracted podiatric physician complete their residency.
- B. A physician may be grandfathered and exempt from the requirements of this Policy if all of the following apply:
1. The physician was first licensed to practice medicine in a United States jurisdiction before January 1, 2008;
 2. The physician was a contracted physician with CalOptima Health or a Health Network prior to July 1, 2016; and
 3. The physician's contract with CalOptima Health or the Health Network did not lapse or terminate for any reason.
- C. If a physician's contract with CalOptima Health or a Health Network lapsed or terminated for any reason, as set forth in Section II.B. above, then the physician is considered a new physician and is not grandfathered for board certification purposes. In these cases, the physician must apply for a new contract and credentialed status and must meet all the requirements of CalOptima Health Policy GG.1643: Minimum Physician Credentialing Standards, including without limitation, the board certification requirement.
- D. Except as provided in Section II.B. of this Policy, a contracted physician who is required to be board certified shall, maintain that status in order to participate in CalOptima Health programs.

- E. A contracted physician shall meet Credentialing and Recredentialing requirements, in accordance with CalOptima Health Policy GG.1650: Credentialing and Recredentialing of Practitioners.
- F. A Health Network shall establish policies and procedures for board certification of contracted physicians that, at minimum, meet and verify compliance with the requirements as outlined in this Policy.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. A physician shall indicate their board certification status as part of the Credentialing and Recredentialing process.
- B. CalOptima Health shall independently verify that a physician is either currently board certified or exempt from the board certification requirements of this policy.
- C. Sources to verify Board Certifications
 - 1. CalOptima Health recognizes the following sources to verify Practitioner board certifications:
 - a. American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS);
 - b. American Medical Association (AMA);
 - c. American Osteopathic Association (AOA);
 - d. American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS);
 - e. American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM);
 - f. American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS) ;
 - g. American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM);
 - i. The ABAM data is housed on the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM) and shall be used to verify the ABAM Board Certification.
 - h. American Board of General Practice (ABGP); and
 - i. The ABGP data is housed on the American Academy of General Physicians and shall be used to verify the ABGP Board Certification.
 - i. American Board of Physicians Specialties (ABPS).
 - 2. CalOptima Health credentialing team shall obtain annual written confirmation from ABFAS and ABPM that they perform primary source verification of completion of education and training.
- D. If, at any time, CalOptima Health finds that a contracted physician has failed to maintain their board certification as required by this Policy, CalOptima Health shall notify the contracted physician of their noncompliance with the requirements of this Policy and shall require the contracted physician to demonstrate within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of notice from CalOptima Health that they are board certified.

- E. If the contracted physician fails to demonstrate within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of notice from CalOptima Health that they are board certified as required by this Policy, then CalOptima Health will terminate the contract within sixty (60) calendar days and upon appropriate notice to Members, provide notice to the contracted physician that they are no longer eligible to participate in CalOptima Health programs, and reassign any affected Members.
- F. CalOptima Health may, at its sole discretion, consider extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis and may adjust these deadlines accordingly.

IV. ATTACHMENT(S)

Not Applicable

V. REFERENCE(S)

- A. CalOptima Health Policy GG.1643: Minimum Physician Credentialing Standards
 B. CalOptima Health Policy GG.1650: Credentialing and Recredentialing of Practitioners

VI. REGULATORY AGENCY APPROVAL(S)

Date	Regulatory Agency	Response
08/10/2017	Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	Approved as Submitted

VII. BOARD ACTION(S)

Date	Meeting
06/05/2007	Regular Meeting of the CalOptima Board of Directors
08/07/2007	Regular Meeting of the CalOptima Board of Directors
06/01/2017	Regular Meeting of the CalOptima Board of Directors
10/01/2020	Regular Meeting of the CalOptima Board of Directors

VIII. REVIEW HISTORY

Version	Date	Policy	Policy Title	Program(s)
Effective	01/01/2008	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal
Revised	03/01/2013	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal
Revised	08/01/2015	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare OneCare Connect PACE
Revised	06/01/2017	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare OneCare Connect PACE
Revised	10/01/2020	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare OneCare Connect PACE

Version	Date	Policy	Policy Title	Program(s)
Revised	12/31/2022	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare PACE
Revised	10/01/2023	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare PACE
Revised	11/01/2024	GG.1633	Board Certification Requirements for Physicians	Medi-Cal OneCare PACE

IX. GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Board Certification/ Certified	Certification of a physician by one (1) of the boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), or American Osteopathic Association (AOA), as meeting the requirements of that board for certification.
Credentialing	<p><u>Medi-Cal</u>: The process of determining a Provider or an entity's professional or technical competence, and may include registration, certification, licensure and professional association membership.</p> <p><u>OneCare</u>: The process of obtaining, verifying, assessing, and monitoring the qualifications of a Practitioner to provide quality and safe patient care services.</p> <p><u>PACE</u>: The recognition of professional or technical competence. The process involved may include registration, certification, licensure, and professional association membership.</p>
Health Network	A Physician Hospital Consortium (PHC), physician medical group under a shared risk contract, or health care service plan, such as a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) that contracts with CalOptima Health to provide Covered Services to Members assigned to that Health Network.
Member	A beneficiary enrolled in a CalOptima Health program.
Practitioner	A licensed independent practitioner including, but not limited to, a Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM), Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine (DC), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Doctor of Psychology (PhD or PsyD), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT or MFCC), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Nurse Midwife, Physician Assistant (PA), Optometrist (OD), Registered Physical Therapist (RPT), Occupational Therapist (OT), or Speech and Language Therapist, furnishing covered services.
Recredentialing	The process by which the qualifications of Practitioners is verified in order to make determinations relating to their continued eligibility for participation in the CalOptima Health program.