

**HMO PARTNERS, INC.
d/b/a HEALTH ADVANTAGE
PHARMACIST CREDENTIALING STANDARDS**

ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES: Pharmacists

Review Item(s)	Credentialing Standard
<p>A. Office Site Review:</p> <p>(Usually for initial credentialing only but may be used at re-credentialing at the sole judgment of Health Advantage)</p>	<p>Performance Scores:</p> <p>91% - 100% - minor deficiencies or no deficiencies.</p> <p>81% - 90% - recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>71% - 80% - requires written response within 30 days. Non compliance may result in denial or removal from the network.</p> <p>61% - 70% - requires written response for deficiencies within 30 days and progress report in 90 days or follow-up visit. Non compliance may result in denial or removal from the network.</p> <p>60% or less – requires written response for deficiencies within 30 days and a follow-up visit after 90 days. Non compliance may result in denial or removal from the network.</p> <p>Note: the foregoing is the process for routine office site review. Health Advantage reserves the right to take immediate action up to and including declining the request for network participation or possible termination of current network providers for other forms of office deficiencies or problems, including but not limited to member complaints, citations, reports or actions of any governmental agency, or any risk to the health or safety of patients.</p>
<p>B. Quality of Services</p>	<p>When data is available, the networks may, upon initial credentialing or re-credentialing, consider the relative quality, or lack thereof, of any services provided by any Pharmacist. Issues concerning quality of services may be submitted by the networks for review at any time (not just upon initial credentialing or re-credentialing) by the Credentialing Committee. The networks may also separately or simultaneously evaluate any quality issues or concerns with respect to any Pharmacist, and the relative quality, or lack thereof, of any services may be grounds for network participation decisions, including but not limited to denial of participation, termination of participation or limits, restrictions or conditions on network participation.</p>
<p>C. Other Networks</p>	<p>All Pharmacists must participate in the US Able Corporation True Blue PPO Network to be eligible for participation in Health Advantage networks. Health Advantage network applicants must participate in all commercial Health Advantage Networks.</p>
<p>D. State Disciplinary Board/Commission</p>	<p>Disciplinary board action(s) or ongoing sanction(s) are considered to be an issue and must be reviewed by the Credentialing Committee to determine if the Pharmacist’s behavior warrants network restriction, termination or exclusion. Disciplinary board action(s) include but are not limited to complaints, allegations, or findings regarding sexual misconduct; violations of laws regulating the possession, distribution and control of scheduled drugs; quality of care issues; etc. The foregoing standard shall not preclude Health Advantage from acting immediately or without Credentialing Committee review as deemed appropriate in its sole discretion with respect to any past or pending disciplinary hearing, action or matter.</p>
<p>E. License</p>	<p>(a) All participating Pharmacists must hold and maintain continuously a current, active and unrestricted license (or licenses, if more than one is required under applicable law or regulation) to practice in the state(s) where the Pharmacist provides any injections, immunizations and vaccines. For purposes of this standard, a "restricted" license shall be deemed to include any revocation, suspension, reduction in scope, or voluntary or involuntary surrender of a license, or any other limitation of any</p>

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	<p>kind on the Pharmacist's license(s), as well as any probation, monitoring, control, oversight, or restraint placed on the license(s), practice or professional activities of a Pharmacist.</p> <p>(b) Any Pharmacist whose license(s) to practice has been restricted shall be ineligible to participate in any network or contract, and shall be excluded therefrom for the duration of any restriction or for two years from the initial date of the restriction, whichever is longer. With respect to past restrictions which are more than two years old, and which are no longer in effect at the time of a Pharmacist's application for participation or upon recredentialing review, the Credentialing Committee will review such instances on a case-by-case basis, and may, in its sole discretion, recommend either full or conditional participation for the Pharmacist, as the circumstances may justify in the Committee's discretion.</p> <p>(c) The foregoing notwithstanding, if the only restriction on a Pharmacist's license consists of a contract¹ with a monitoring body approved by the Pharmacist's licensing Board to perform Pharmacist monitoring services, the Credentialing Committee, in its sole discretion, may recommend conditional participation in a network or contract, upon such terms, conditions and restrictions as the Credentialing Committee shall establish. At a minimum, such terms, conditions and restrictions shall include</p> <p>(i) a requirement that the Pharmacist must, at all times during any participation in a network or contract, comply with all terms and conditions set by the approved monitoring body,</p> <p>(ii) a requirement that the Pharmacist must sign all releases and make all authorizations needed in order for the Credentialing Committee to receive from the monitoring agency immediate notification of any violation by the Pharmacist of any contract with the monitoring agency, and a complete report and disclosure of all relevant details of such violation, and the status of the Pharmacist's rehabilitation, progress or lack thereof. Any Pharmacist whose participation in a monitoring program is involuntary (i.e., follows disciplinary action or notice from the licensing Board or is imposed by the Board as a condition of staying revocation or temporary lifting of any Board sanctions), shall not be eligible for consideration of conditional participation in any network or contract until after successful completion of two years without violations in the monitoring program. Any Pharmacist whose participation in the monitoring program is voluntary (i.e., resulting from voluntary contact by the Pharmacist with the Board prior to any other disciplinary action or notice from the Board), shall be eligible for consideration for conditional participation in networks or contracts at any time, in the discretion of the Credentialing Committee.</p> <p>(d) License restrictions or disciplinary actions in other states or countries (i.e., states other than the state where a Pharmacist currently practices) may be considered in applying these license standards</p> <p>¹ Whether the contract is a result of voluntary action by the Pharmacist or is required as a condition for a stay or conditional lifting of an involuntary revocation or suspension of license by the Board.</p>
<p>F. Additional license and certification requirements</p>	<p>Pharmacists must possess the added license certification for the authority to administer medications / immunizations which requires the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successfully completion of a Pharmacy Board-approved course of study, examination and certification related to immunization; 2. Obtain and maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or basic cardiac life support (BCLS);

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	3. Successfully complete one (1) hour of CE related to immunization every year.
G. Independent Practice	Pharmacist must present himself/herself to the community as a separately identifiable individual Pharmacist that clearly separates his/her services from those provided by like employees of a facility or institution providing injections, immunizations, and vaccines, or other pharmacy services, on an inpatient or outpatient basis. An example of this is a separate clearly identifiable professional office with signage identifying the Pharmacist practicing at this location.
H. Felony Convictions	Must have no felony convictions or guilty pleas. An exception may be granted, in the sole discretion of Health Advantage, if the Pharmacist has been pardoned by the appropriate governmental executive and Health Advantage concludes, based on available information, that the Pharmacist has been rehabilitated.
I. Alcohol or Drug Abuse	Must refrain from use of any illegal drug or any abuse of alcohol or legal drugs. Pharmacists who are currently being treated for substance abuse or who have completed a treatment program, or who are reporting to a monitoring body approved by the Pharmacist's licensing Board (see also "H. License" standard) must submit a letter from their treating physician or the monitoring body approved by the Pharmacist's licensing Board with complete details and verification of compliance with treatment plan(s).
J. Pharmacist Impairment	Must be physically and mentally capable to fully perform professional and medical staff duties required to provide medical services to members.
K. Professional Liability Claims History	All applicants must provide a history of professional liability claims, settlements and/or judgments including a complete description and response to inquiries by the Credentialing Committee or Health Advantage.
L. Medicare/Medicaid Sanctions, Fraud, Insurance Program Restrictions or Irregularities	Must not be currently under sanction by Medicare/Medicaid or any other government agency nor be ineligible to participate in any government program for any reason. In addition, Health Advantage reserves the right to review all participating Pharmacists at any time for suspected fraud or abusive claims practices. Participating Pharmacists must fully cooperate with Health Advantage in any review of suspected fraudulent or abusive claims activity by responding promptly to information requests, and by making appropriate staff available to address questions or provide data. If fraud or abuse is detected, Health Advantage may terminate network participation, report the fraudulent or abusive activity to state or federal agencies, and pursue other appropriate legal recourse.
M. Applications, Release and Attestation	All Pharmacists must complete a standard application and sign and date a release and attestation on forms as required by Health Advantage.
N. Initial Credentialing Decisions	Pharmacists who do not meet minimum credentialing criteria as stated above will be excluded from the Health Advantage HMO network. Those determined to have issues regarding qualification or compliance with established standards will be reviewed and approved or denied by the Credentialing Committee, subject only to appeal rights and Health Advantage's right to amend or apply these Standards. Health Advantage reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to decline to present any Applicant to the Credentialing Committee for review.
O. Recredentialing Decisions	Recredentialing of Pharmacists normally occurs every 36 months. This period could vary in individual cases to allow compliance with regulatory requirements or other unanticipated reasons. Pharmacists who do not meet minimum credentialing standards as stated above will be excluded from the Health Advantage HMO network. Those determined to have issues regarding qualification or compliance with established standards will be reviewed and approved or denied by the Credentialing Committee, subject only to appeal rights and Health Advantage's right to amend or apply these Standards. Health Advantage reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to decline to present any Applicant to the Credentialing Committee for review.