



February 2009

Current Status

- Training on the web-based application begins Feb. 24 for practitioners, clinics, hospitals and health plans.
- The phased-in start begins March 1.
- In May, we anticipate the product will be available to all practitioners, clinics, hospitals and health plans for use with the credentialing applications.
- Customer support is now available. Visit www.mncred.org for customer support or call 651-789-0113. Your request will be answered within 24 business hours.
- Participants in the first phase include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota; FirstPlan; HealthPartners Health Plan; Medica; Metropolitan Health Plan; PreferredOne; Sanford Health Plan; UCare, PrimeWest Health; South Country Alliance; Affiliated Community Medical Center, Willmar; HealthLink Minnesota; Metropolitan Urologic Specialists, P.A.; Minnesota Gastroenterology, P.A.; Hennepin County Medical Center, Regions Hospital, HealthPartners Medical Group; Ortonville Area Health Services; Douglas County Hospital; Family Practice Medical Center of Willmar, PA
- Organizations currently registered for the second phase are: Allina; Fairview; Edina Eye Physician and Surgery; Steven's Community Medical; Minnesota Eye Consultants; Noran Neurological Clinic; Suburban Radiology; Monticello Big Lake Hospital; North Country Regional Hospital and Regency Hospital
- Training is required for health plans, hospitals or others who will be receiving the applications. This training is available online, on-site training or in a group setting. See the website for the schedule and more information. Practitioners entering the information will be able to view a tutorial online. No additional training for practitioners is required.

Background

MCC Goal

The credentialing collaborative provides a centralized, web-based clearinghouse for information used in the credentialing process. The product is an online, easy-to-use way to prepare, save and send the credentialing application that is accepted by health plans and hospitals.

How does it work?

Once the information is entered into the secure Web site by the practitioner or clinic, users select the destination—health plan(s) and/or hospital(s). The system electronically sends the information. The information is stored in a secure database, so users may quickly access and update the next time an application is needed.

What is not included in this collaborative?

- Hospital or health plan decisions regarding credentials or privileges
- Primary source verification of any information (However, this service may be purchased directly from the MCC vendor, CredentialSmart.)

Benefits of the initiative

For practitioners and clinics

- Decrease the amount of time required for credentialing/privileging work.
- Offer an easy and secure way for providers to submit credentialing applications electronically to health plans and hospitals.
- Reduce the time it takes to create a completed, acceptable application.
- Store data so future applications can be built off of existing information, rather than starting from scratch.

For health plans and hospitals

- Ensure more applications are complete by using “smart” technology that notifies the applicant if required information is missing. The system allows applications to be submitted only when all required fields are complete.
- Eliminate the need in some organizations to type applications from paper forms into the organization’s own system.
- Decrease the amount of staff time needed to track down missing information.
- Allow information to be sent and received electronically.

Partners

Along with individual hospitals, health plans and clinics, partners in creating a web-based credentialing application are:

- Minnesota Medical Association (MMA)
- Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA)
- Minnesota Council of Health Plans (MCHP)
- Minnesota Medical Group Management Association (MMGMA)

Governance

- The governance structure is a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) owned by Minnesota Council of Health Plans, Minnesota Medical Association and Minnesota Hospital Association.
- Members of the Board of Governors are: Patty Dennis, Medica; Kathy Ohmann, HealthPartners; John Frederick, M.D., PreferredOne; Paul Sanders, M.D., Cambridge; James Breitenbucher, M.D., Fairview/University; Darla Morris-Prebble, Specialists in General Surgery, Ltd.; John Rau, Steven’s Community Medical Center; Hilary Marden-Resnick, Hennepin County Medical Center; and one additional member to be appointed by the Minnesota Hospital Association.
- Executive Committee members are Janny Brust, Minnesota Council of Health Plans, chair; Richard Kreyer, Minnesota Hospital Association, vice chair; George Lohmer, Minnesota Medical Association, secretary/treasurer.

Updates and More Information

Visit our website at www.mncred.org. If your questions aren’t answered there, contact Tracey Torgersen, program manager, MCC, tracey@mncred.org, 651-360-9793.