



October 14, 2016

CountyCare Direct Credentialing Notice
Extended Deadline: December 16, 2016

Dear CountyCare Practitioner:

As you may be aware, CountyCare is currently in the process of validating the credentials of our CountyCare network practitioners as we transition to working with a new credentialing verification organization (CVO), 3WON.

This notice is to alert our CountyCare network of additional time to complete this process and to clarify which providers will need to be directly credentialed.

The new deadline for submission of credentialing materials is now **December 16, 2016**. This deadline will provide us sufficient time to review and approve applications in advance of the regulatory requirements under which we operate. In the meantime, CountyCare will continue to honor the current credentialing status of our network providers until further notice.

CountyCare is also in the process of working with CAQH in order to access their database of credentialing files. We anticipate this will be completed by the end of October, and we are optimistic that this access will greatly expedite the credentialing process for everyone.

Medical Practitioners Requiring Credentialing

CountyCare requires direct credentialing of the following types of practitioners who have an independent relationship with CountyCare:

- Doctor of Medicine (MD/MD equivalent);
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO);
- Doctor of Dental Science (DDS) who provide care covered as a medical benefit;
- Oral Surgeon (DDS or MD/MD equivalent);
- Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM);
- Doctor of Chiropractic (DC);
- Nurse practitioners who provide direct patient care; and
- Physician assistants who provide direct patient care.

An independent relationship exists when CountyCare makes available or directs its members to see a specific practitioner or group of contracted practitioners outside of a medical facility that is also contracted with CountyCare.

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CountyCare does not require credentialing of practitioners who practice exclusively within the in-patient hospital setting or within free standing facilities. Such practitioners generally include the following:

- Pathologists,
- Radiologists,
- Anesthesiologists,
- Neonatologists,
- Emergency Room Physicians,
- Hospitalists,
- Covering practitioners,
- Locum tenens,
- Board certified consultants not providing care in a treatment setting,
- Delegated practitioners,
- Dentists who exclusively provide dental care under CountyCare's dental benefits as managed by DentaQuest and, thus, credentialed by DentaQuest, and
- Optometrists who provide optometry benefits under CountyCare's vision benefits as managed by EyeQuest and, thus, credentialed by EyeQuest.

Behavioral Health Practitioners Requiring Credentialing

The following independent licensed behavioral health care practitioners who are not practicing at an inpatient hospital, residential treatment center, or ambulatory behavioral health facility who are state certified or licensed as follows must be directly credentialed:

- Doctoral and/or Master's Level Psychologists (PhD, PsyD);
- Master's Level Clinical Social Workers;
- Master's Level Clinical Nurse Specialists or Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners;
- Addiction Medicine; and
- Other independently practicing Behavioral Health Care Specialists.

Licensed behavioral health care practitioners who are practicing exclusively at an inpatient hospital, a residential treatment center, or an ambulatory behavioral health facility need not be credentialed. However, these facility organizations themselves require credentialing.

Questions?

If you have any questions, you may contact Dr. Elmer Abbo, Medical Director and Chair, CountyCare Credentialing Review Committee, at eabbo@cookcountyhhs.org.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and appreciation your cooperation in getting this completed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

CountyCare Provider Relations