



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: _____ (name of person who will answer questions from media) _____
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MANDATORY "HEALTH CARE CREDENTIALS UNIFORM APPLICATION" BECOMES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2005

DENVER, CO, NOVEMBER 14, 2005 – In April 2005, Governor Bill Owens signed into law House Bill 04-1354, Health Care Credentials Uniform Application Act. This law makes mandatory the use of a single statewide uniform application to be used by all healthcare entities and all health plans engaged in the collection of information used in the process of credentialing healthcare professionals within the State of Colorado. The purpose of the Act is "...to make credentialing more efficient, less costly, and less duplicative by making it uniform through the use of a single application form for the collection of core credentials data." This application becomes effective December 31, 2005.

The law defines a healthcare professional as any physician, dentist, dental hygienist, chiropractor, podiatrist, psychologist, advanced practice nurse, optometrist, physician assistant, licensed clinical social worker, child health associate, marriage and family therapist, or any other healthcare professional who is registered, certified or licensed by the State of Colorado, who practices or intends to practice in Colorado, and who is subject to credentialing.

Those credentialing entities required to use this uniform application are:

- healthcare facilities or other healthcare organizations licensed or certified to provide medical or health services in Colorado;
- healthcare professional partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, professional services corporations, or group practices;
- independent practice associations or physician-hospital organizations;
- professional liability insurance carriers;

- insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, or other entities that contract for the provision of health benefits.

Colorado state licensing or certification boards are not required to use the uniform application.

Although the above credentialing entities may no longer use their own individual applications, they may continue to require applicant healthcare professionals to complete facility- or organization-specific forms; e.g., delineations of privileges, specific attestations, identity verifications, etc. This cannot duplicate any information already on the uniform application.

This application will be used by the entities outlined above, however, each entity will process, credential and approve the practitioner based on their facility's specific criteria. It will still be important to contact the entities to which you are applying before an application is submitted in order to verify that you meet their eligibility criteria.

The uniform application is available for printing from the following websites:

- Colorado Association of Medical Staff Services (CAMSS),
www.camss-colorado.org
- COPIC Companies, www.callcopic.com
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environmental Regulations,
www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulate

Practitioners are encouraged to completely fill out the application, with the exception of the signature, and keep a copy for their records as well as for future application requests. If you are asked to submit a copy of the application for reappointment purposes, simply verify that nothing has changed on the application, initial each page, sign, date and mail it to the credentialing entity that has requested it.

We think you will find the move to a single statewide application very helpful. Not only will it dramatically decrease the number of applications (both initial and reappointment) that you are required to complete, it will also make the process more uniform throughout the state. Should you have any questions, please contact the Medical Staff Office at your primary hospital.