

Differences Between Credentialing and Enrollment

A State Medicaid agency is required to enroll and screen **all** providers who are providing services to Medicaid members. The screening includes verification of good standing with federal and state agencies, NPI verification, and appropriate licensure (if applicable). There are no providers who are exempt from this provision, and owners are additionally screened as part of monthly checks, initial enrollment, and revalidation.

Currently, the Managed Care Plans are required to credential certain provider types per NCQA provisions. For individual providers, this includes providers who are licensed and able to practice independently under state law. In addition to individual providers, there are some facility and organization types who go through credentialing at the facility/organization level.

Individual providers that are exempt from credentialing are as follows:

- Students who are in residency/fellowship
- Hospitalists/inpatient only providers
- Providers who are not able to practice independently under state law. For example, an advanced nurse practitioner would be subject to credentialing due to being able to practice independently, but a registered nurse would not, due to being under supervision.

During the credentialing process, the same screenings as enrollment are completed. However, many other items are primary source verified. This includes hospital privileges, DEA information, board certification, training/education, as well as work history. Credentialing is required every thirty-six (36) months, as opposed to revalidation which is required every five (5) years.

Important note: not all providers are required to be credentialed and recertified, but all must go through enrollment and revalidation.

For more information about PNM and Centralized Credentialing, visit the [Managed Care website](#).

Glossary

Enrollment and Screening: The process in which a provider is screened and enrolled at the State Medicaid Agency in accordance with CFR 42 provisions

Credentialing: The process in which a provider is credentialed in accordance with NCQA by the appropriate credentialing body

CVO (Credentials Verification Organization): An organization that performs credentialing functions on behalf of another entity

NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance): The organization that provides guidelines and accreditation for CVOs and Credentialing programs