

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 888 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, VOGEL, KANE AND KEEFER, JUNE 24, 2025

REFERRED TO BANKING AND INSURANCE, JUNE 24, 2025

AN ACT

1 Providing for the use of certain credentialing applications and
2 for credentialing requirements for health insurers; imposing
3 penalties; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the
4 Insurance Department.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Health Care
9 Practitioner Credentialing Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "CAQH." The Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare.

15 "CAQH credentialing application." The application used to
16 collect the credentials data commonly requested by health
17 insurers for purposes of credentialing.

18 "Credentialing." The process of assessing and validating the
19 qualifications of a health care practitioner, including an

1 evaluation of licensure status, education, training, experience,
2 competence and professional judgment.

3 "Federally qualified health center." A federally qualified
4 health center as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(1)(2)(B) (relating
5 to definitions) or a federally qualified health center look-
6 alike that is a participating provider with the Department of
7 Human Services under the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21),
8 known as the Human Services Code.

9 "Health care practitioner." As defined under section 103 of
10 the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health
11 Care Facilities Act. The term shall include:

12 (1) A health care practitioner at a federally qualified
13 health center.

14 (2) An individual who engages in the practice of
15 dentistry as defined in section 2 of the act of May 1, 1933
16 (P.L.216, No.76), known as The Dental Law.

17 "Health insurer." As follows:

18 (1) An entity that contracts or offers to contract to
19 provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for or reimburse any of
20 the costs of health care services in exchange for a premium,
21 including a Medicaid managed care organization as defined in
22 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(m)(1)(A) (relating to payment to states),
23 and an entity licensed under any of the following:

24 (i) The act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known
25 as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

26 (ii) The act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701,
27 No.364), known as the Health Maintenance Organization
28 Act.

29 (iii) 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan
30 corporations).

(iv) 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to professional health services plan corporations).

(2) The term does not include the following types of insurance or any combination thereof:

(i) Accident only.

(ii) Fixed indemnity.

(iii) Credit.

(iv) Vision.

(v) Specified disease.

(vi) Medicare supplement.

(vii) Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services supplement policy.

(viii) Long-term care or disability income.

(ix) Workers' compensation.

(x) Automobile medical payment insurance.

(xi) Hospital indemnity.

Section 3. Utilization of CAQH.

All health insurers licensed to do business in this Commonwealth shall be required to accept the CAQH credentialing application or other form designated by the Insurance Department so long as the form is nationally recognized as an appropriate credentialing application when submitted by a health care practitioner for participation in the health insurer's provider panel. All health care practitioners shall use the CAQH or other designated form. An application shall be considered complete if the application is submitted through the CAQH electronic process or other process as designated by the Insurance Department and all required information is provided.

Section 4. Credentialing.

(a) Notice.--Within 10 business days after receiving a CAQH

1 credentialing application, the health insurer shall notify the
2 health care practitioner in writing on whether the application
3 is complete or incomplete. The health insurer shall state the
4 reasons why the application is incomplete within the time frame
5 specified under this subsection.

6 (b) Issuance.--The health insurer shall issue a
7 credentialing determination within 45 business days after
8 receiving a complete CAQH credentialing application. When a
9 health care practitioner is not credentialed by a health
10 insurer, the health insurer shall notify the health care
11 practitioner in writing of the reasons for the decision within
12 the time frame specified under this subsection.

13 (c) Automatic credentialing.--Upon approving a health care
14 practitioner's complete CAQH credentialing application with
15 practices in multiple locations, the health care practitioner
16 shall be automatically credentialed to serve in the health
17 insurer's provider panel in all locations.

18 Section 5. Penalty.

19 The Insurance Department shall assess an administrative
20 penalty on a health insurer for failure to utilize CAQH, or
21 other designated application, or for intentionally and routinely
22 failing to complete the credentialing process according to
23 section 4. A health insurer may not be subject to an
24 administrative penalty based on a health care practitioner's
25 failure to use or complete an accurate CAQH credentialing
26 application.

27 Section 6. Rights.

28 Nothing in this act shall be construed to guarantee the
29 rights of a health care practitioner to participate in any
30 health insurer network in this Commonwealth nor require a health

1 insurer to accept any willing health care provider to an
2 insurance network.

3 Section 7. Rules and regulations.

4 The Insurance Department shall promulgate rules and
5 regulations to administer and enforce this act.

6 Section 8. Repeals.

7 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are
8 inconsistent with this act.

9 Section 9. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect in 180 days.