univera HEALTHCARE

SUBJECT: NEW SPECIALTY DESIGNATIONS SECTION: CREDENTIALING POLICY NUMBER: CR-27	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/01
Applies to all products administered by the Plan except when changed by contract	

Policy Statement: Practitioners who may be practicing a specialty but are not eligible to take the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), American Osteopathic Association (AOA) or, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), where reciprocity exists ("Recognized Board") board certification exam, or the "legacy" window for taking the exam has passed, may submit an application for designation in that specialty with at least the criteria listed below.

Process:
Upon receipt of an application from a practitioner who is requesting participant status in a new specialty designation, the following steps will be taken:

1. Review the Recognized Board's annual report to be sure the specialty falls into the recognized status as defined in the Plan's Credentialing Policy CR-15.

2. Review the practitioner's application for the following criteria:
    a) Must have practiced in that specialty for at least 10 years and submit proof of such;
    b) Be privileged to practice that specialty in a hospital or Article 28 facility;
    c) Provide the names of at least three peers who are not partners or associates who can attest to current competence and good character. One of the references must be the chair of the specialty department or Chief Medical Officer of an Article 28 facility; and
    d) Practitioner must be board certified in the parent board.

3. The Plan's Credentialing Staff will confirm that the applicant's malpractice insurance carrier insures them for work in the requested specialty.

4. The legacy clause shall not be used as an alternative for individuals currently qualified or eligible to take the certifying exam.

5. The Plan's Credentialing Staff will present the request to the Corporate Credentialing Committee for final determination.

6. Refer to the Plan's Credentialing Policy CR-22A for CME requirements for physicians who are not board certified.

Cross-Reference: Policy originated at Blue Cross Blue Shield of the Rochester Area MCO as a draft presented to Credentialing Committee in October 2000. Draft approved to take effect January 2001.

Committee Approvals:
Corporate Credentialing Committee: 9/20/04, 5/17/06, 9/19/07, 9/16/09, 9/21/11, 10/16/13, 10/21/15, Renewed 10/18/17, Revised 11/15/17; Revised 11/20/19; revised 11/16/2023; renewed 11/19/2025
Excellus Credentialing Committee 12/16/02
MCOCC 11/13/00; HCBMC 12/7/00
Original Source: no previous formal policy