

CHAPTER 88

AN ACT concerning certain application forms for managed care plans and supplementing P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.26:2S-7.1 Universal application for credentialing physicians for a carrier's provider network.

1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, the Health Insurance Association of America, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association and such other representatives of managed care plans as the commissioner deems appropriate, shall adopt by regulation, a universal physician application for participation form for use by carriers which offer managed care plans for the purpose of credentialing physicians who seek to participate in a carrier's provider network and for the purpose of credentialing physicians who are employed by hospitals or other health care facilities which seek to participate in a carrier's provider network.

The commissioner, in consultation with the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, the Health Insurance Association of America, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association and such other representatives of managed care plans as the commissioner deems appropriate, shall also adopt by regulation a form for renewal of credentialing, which shall be an abbreviated version of the universal application form. The renewal form shall be designed to enable a physician to indicate changes in the information provided in the application form.

The commissioner shall revise the universal application and renewal forms, as necessary, to conform with industry-wide, national standards for credentialing.

In developing the forms, the commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Human Services to ensure that the credentialing requirements for participation in the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.), the health care coverage program for children, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-1 et seq.) and the FamilyCare Health Coverage Program established pursuant to P.L.2000, c.71 (C.30:4J-1 et seq.) are adequately reflected on the application and renewal forms.

C.26:2S-7.2 Acceptance of application by carriers.

2. Within 180 days of the adoption of the forms by regulation pursuant to this act, a carrier which offers a managed care plan shall accept the universal physician application for participation form and renewal form adopted pursuant to this act for the purpose of credentialing physicians who seek to participate in the carrier's provider network and for the purpose of credentialing physicians who are employed by hospitals or other health care facilities which seek to participate in the carrier's provider network.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a carrier from requesting additional information from an applicant that is not provided for in the universal application or renewal form, as applicable, if the requested information does not duplicate any information included in the applicable form.

C.26:2S-7.3. Rules, regulations.

3. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt regulations within 180 days of the date of enactment of this act, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 10, 2001.