

Approving Entities to Credential Pain Management Specialists

Introduction

Purpose. The Commission adopts this procedure for approving entities to credential physicians in pain management, and creates the list of approved entities.

Background: [WAC 246-919-945\(1\)](#) provides, in part, that in order to qualify as a pain management specialist for the purposes of the opioid prescribing rules, an allopathic physician must meet one or more of the following qualifications:

- (a) Is board certified or board eligible by an American Board of Medical Specialties-approved board (ABMS) or by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, rheumatology, or anesthesiology;
- (b) Has a subspecialty certificate in pain medicine by an ABMS-approved board;
- (c) Has a certification of added qualification in pain management by the AOA;
- (d) Is credentialed in pain management by an entity approved by the commission for an allopathic physician or the Washington state board of osteopathic medicine and surgery for an osteopathic physician;**
- (e) Has a minimum of three years of clinical experience in a chronic pain management care setting; and
 - (i) Has successful completion of a minimum of at least eighteen continuing education hours in pain management during the past two years for an allopathic physician or three years for an osteopathic physician; and
 - (ii) Has at least thirty percent of the allopathic physician's or osteopathic physician's current practice is the direct provision of pain management care or is in a multidisciplinary pain clinic.

[WAC 246-918-895](#) contains similar language for a physician assistant to qualify as a pain management specialist. The Commission has not approved any pain management specialist credentialing entities under [WAC 246-919-945\(1\)\(d\)](#) or [WAC 246-918-895\(1\)\(b\)](#) prior to the adoption of this procedure.

Procedure

1. An entity submits a letter to the Commission requesting that the Commission approve it as an entity to credential physicians as pain management specialists. The entity includes documentation that demonstrates that its certification program requires the physician applicant to:
 - a. Pass an examination provided by the entity;
 - b. Hold a DEA registration;
 - c. Complete education related to pain management;
 - d. Have practice experience in pain management; and
 - e. Complete continuing medical education in pain management.

2. The Commission reviews the letter and accompanying documentation. If the Commission determines that the entity meets the requirements listed in step 1, the Commission will notify the entity that it has been approved as an entity to credential a physician in pain management. The Commission will place the entity on the list of approved entities.
3. If the Commission determines that the entity does not meet the requirements listed in step 1, the Commission will notify the entity of the decision.

Approved Entities

American Board of Pain Medicine

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Reaffirmed: July 14, 2023