

CCN Provider Credentialing Requirements

Quick Reference Guide

Key Points:

- In order to be eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Care Network (CCN), all services, facilities, and providers shall be in compliance with all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements.
- Any provider on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) exclusions/sanctions list shall be prohibited from network participation.

Below are eligibility requirements for facilities and providers in the CCN network based on specialty and provider type.

Credentialing

Providers who have signed a contract to become a member of the CCN will be credentialed by the local network representative organization (a network subcontractor) or directly by TriWest Healthcare Alliance (TriWest). For more information about your contract, please contact our Provider Services team at 877-226-8749 or providerservices@triwest.com. Please include your tax identification number in all correspondence.

- The credentialing process includes obtaining primary-source verification of the provider's education, board certification, license, professional background, malpractice history and other pertinent data.
- Credentialing and contracting packets may be obtained from the local representative who assists in completing the paperwork and executing the contract.
- A provider who is credentialed and has signed a contract is considered to be a network provider once they are informed of the final notification of contract execution by the local network representative.
- Providers will be re-credentialed at least every three years. Providers are considered approved upon re-credentialing unless otherwise notified.

Direct Contracting Credentialing

If you are in Nevada, please access the TriWest network applications: <https://joinournetwork.triwest.com/>.

Note: To expedite processing of your application use the following links:

- [Hospital and Ancillary Credentialing Application](#)
- [Practitioner Credentialing Application](#)

Provider Licensing

- All licenses of network providers must be full, current, and unrestricted.
- VA may perform random on-site visits to provider locations through coordination with TriWest, to inspect physical operations and/or review records of Veterans, speak with Veterans, review quality and completeness of accreditation, certification and credentialing, privileging, and licensing documentation.

Privileging

TriWest will ensure that every procedure, test or other aspect of clinical care will be performed by providers with demonstrated current competence, either through current unrestricted privileges to provide the care as required by Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoP) and Conditions for Coverage (CfC), or other measures of demonstrated competency. Current CoP and CfCs can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CFCsAndCoPs/index.html>.

Additional Information on Credentialing Requirements

CCN providers who are not credentialed under an accredited credentialing process must have the following documentation:

- Proof of identity in the form of a government issued photo identification and I-9 documentation
- Education and training documents, if applicable (unskilled home health excluded)
- A copy of an active, unrestricted license in the state in which the service is performed, if applicable (unskilled home health excluded)
- Current National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, if applicable (unskilled home health excluded)
- Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- A Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number, if they prescribe controlled substances
- Work history, criminal background disclosure and professional references
- Maintain professional liability insurance in an amount in accordance with the laws of the state in which the care is provided
- Operate within the scope of their license
- Remain in compliance with seven (7) Elements of the OIG's Compliance Program Guidance

CCN Healthcare Service Exceptions

CCN Healthcare Service Exceptions are services that are covered by the VA Health Benefit Package in accordance with 38 C.F.R. § 17.38 or otherwise provided by VA, but **must not be provided under this CCN contract:**

- Beneficiary travel.
- Medical and rehabilitative evaluation for artificial limbs and specialized devices such as adaptive sports and recreational equipment.

- Nursing home care including state Veterans' Home per diem, which implies that when the Veteran is in a domicile/residence, the services would be excluded. When a person is at an unskilled site for a skilled need, it can be included.
- Home deliveries and deliveries by direct entry midwives, also known as lay midwives or certified professional midwives.
- Ambulance services. All ambulance services must always be referred directly to VA for payment consideration.

Specific Credentialing Requirements for Professional Providers

Most providers will have to fulfill the following two credentialing requirements along with other sets of unique requirements, mentioned in the tables below:

- State license, full, current, and unrestricted license in the state where services are delivered.
- If a provider is or has been licensed in more than one state, TriWest must always confirm that the provider certifies that none of those states has terminated such license for cause, and that the provider has not involuntarily relinquished such license in any of those states after being notified in writing by that state of potential termination for cause.

Type/Specialty	VA Specialty-Specific Requirements
<p>Chiropractor, Clinical Psychologist (PHD, EdD, PsyD, EdS), Physicians, Physical Therapist, Podiatrists</p>	<p>No additional requirement other than the two requirements mentioned above.</p>
<p>Acupuncture, Licensed Acupuncturist/Doctor of Oriental Medicine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physician Acupuncturists (MD/DO) must hold a valid unrestricted license to practice medicine including acupuncture, and either be a member of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA) or be certified by the American Board of Medical Acupuncture. •State license, full, current, unrestricted license is required in the state where services are delivered or National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) certification

Addiction Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Providers prescribing methadone or buprenorphine-containing drugs outside of a SAMHSA-certified Opioid Treatment Program shall hold a DATA 2000 Waiver.
Audiologist, Speech Therapists/Pathologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a relevant Master's degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university •In states without licensure (currently Colorado and South Dakota), must be certified by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
Biofeedback, Hypnotherapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws and/or •Added as an Area of Interest (AOI) to applicable providers
Certified Nurse Practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must be allied certified as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) by a recognized national certifying body that has established standards for NPs (American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) National Certification Corporation (NCC), etc.); or •Have a Master's degree in nursing or a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree
Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must be allied certified as a nurse midwife by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)
Certified Physician Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must be allied certified through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA, CRNARX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must be allied certified through the National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA).
Certified Nurse Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Certified Nurse Specialist, Psych/Mental Health (CNS) ONLY • Must have a Doctor of Nursing Practice or a Master's degree in a defined clinical area of nursing; and •Must be certified as a Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS) by a recognized national certifying body that has established standards for CNSs. American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) provides this certification for Certified Nurse

	Specialists (psychiatric).
Certified Marriage and Family Therapists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must have a Master's degree in Counseling
Dentistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Includes all recognized American Dental Association (ADA) specialties except for pediatric dentistry •CCN providers must comply with the most current version of the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature published in the ADA's Current Dental Terminology (CDT) manual throughout the Period of Performance (PoP).
Durable Medical Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Licensed by the State, if applicable; •Medicare authorized (enrolled to receive payment- Medicare Part B)
Infusion Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)
Massage Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a valid unrestricted state massage license OR • Current jurisdictional (city/county, etc.) license PLUS either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Certificate of National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) exam passage OR -Certificate of active professional AMTA or ABMP membership (requires 500 hours training) Additionally, Reflexologist must also maintain Certification from the American Reflexology Certification Board
Native American Healing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws
Nutritionist, Registered Dietitian (RD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In states without licensure, must be certified as a Registered Nutrition Professional/Registered Dietitian by the Commission of Dietetic Registration.
Occupational Therapist, Optometrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unless otherwise authorized by CO/COR, providers of blind or low-vision rehabilitation shall be certified by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP).
Pastoral Counselors, Mental Health Counselor (LPC, MHC, LPCP, LPCC,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must have a Master's degree in Counseling.

<p>LMHC, LMHP, LIMHP, LCP, LCPC, LPCA, LPAT, LADC, LAC, LAPC, LCMHC, LPCMH)</p>	
<p>Prosthetic/Orthotic Suppliers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Licensed by the state, if applicable; •Medicare authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)
<p>Social Worker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Must have a Master's or PhD in Social Work.
<p>Tai Chi Instructor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Certification from the individual training program •Have a minimum of 200 hours of training and/or practice teaching •Have one year documented teaching experience
<p>Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Teacher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws; and/or •MBSR Teacher Certification evidenced by a Certification by the Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts; or •Copy of Attestation to 200 hours of experience teaching Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) PLUS • Written documentation of completion of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction in Mind/Body Medicine a 5- or 7-Day Residential Training Retreat offered by the Center for Mindfulness at University of Massachusetts Medical School; or • Written documentation of completion of Practicum in MBSR (formerly the Internship Program) and/or Teacher Development Intensive in MBSR and/or Supervision in MBSR conducted by CFM or a CFM affiliated training program; PLUS • Letter of Reference from an MBSR Instructor-trainer approved by the Center for Mindfulness

<p>Qi Gong Instructor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Certification from the National QiGong Association (NQA) or individual training program •A minimum of 200 hours of formal training •One year teaching experience
<p>Relaxation Techniques (e.g., meditation, guided imagery)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws
<p>Yoga Instructor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet requirements of state and local laws • A Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT), registered with the Yoga Alliance (200 / 500 hour certifications) or more Yoga nationally certified course or training program; or • Certificate of completion of a comprehensive Yoga Teacher Training course; PLUS • One year in practice experience following completion of training or working under supervision in a yoga facility

Specific Credentialing Requirements for Clinics/Facilities

<p>Clinic/Facility</p>	<p>VA Specialty-Specific Requirements</p>
<p>Birthing Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Joint Commission (TJC) or - Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) or - Commission for the Accreditation of Birthing Centers (CABC) •Maintain Joint Commission accreditation
<p>Comprehensive Outpatient Rehab Facility (CORF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or participating, or •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited or •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unless otherwise authorized by CO/COR, providers of blind or low vision rehabilitation shall be certified by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP)
Clinical Medical Laboratory	<p>CLIA certified or Accredited by an approved accreditation organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, •Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) •College of American Pathologists •The Joint Commission (TJC)
Cardiac Rehab Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified, or •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited or •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
Clinic/Center - Methadone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Licensed by the state, if applicable; •SAMHSA Certification •Facilities prescribing Methadone and/or Buprenorphine must be SAMHSA certified
Clinic/Center, Mental Health (Including Community Mental Health Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified and •Must be receiving, or be eligible to receive certain types of Federal grants, or must be an outpatient facility operated by an Indian tribal organization. FQHC must be able to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notice of Grant Award or -FQHC Look-Alike Designation notice issued by HRSA or -Confirmation the applicant is a qualifying tribal or Urban Indian organization outpatient healthcare facility •Effective Jan. 1, 2016, a clinic that is operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Education and Assistance Act, and was billing as if it were provider-based to an IHS hospital on or before April 7, 2000, and is no longer operating as a provider-based department of an IHS hospital, may be certified as a

	grandfathered tribal FQHC.
Free-standing ambulatory surgical centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or Accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Joint Commission (TJC) or - Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) or -American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) or -Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)
Independent Physiological Lab (includes Cardiac Cath Lab & PET Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or participating •Outpatient facilities providing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures shall be accredited in accordance with Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA 2008), currently applicable to all providers of Computed Tomography (CT) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), breast MRI, nuclear medicine, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exams. The American College of Radiology (ACR), the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), The Joint Commission (TJC) and RadSite have been deemed by CMS to provide this accreditation.
Home health agencies (Skilled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or participating (if certified, will be subject to PPS reimbursement) •Maintain The Joint Commission (TJC) accreditation
Home health agencies (Unskilled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws
Hospitals, acute care, general and special	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or Accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Joint Commission (TJC) or - Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) or - Det Norske Veritas (DNV GL) or - Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ) or - Other agencies deemed by CMS to accredit acute

	care hospitals.
Hospitals, Rehab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified, or •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited or •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) •Unless otherwise authorized by CO/COR, providers of blind or low vision rehabilitation shall be certified by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP)
Hospitals, Psychiatric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •CMS Certified, and •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited, or •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited
Hospice/Palliative Care/Respite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or Accredited by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc (ACHC) -Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) -The Joint Commission (TJC)
Long Term Acute Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or Accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Joint Commission (TJC) or - Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Det Norske Veritas (DNV GL) or - Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ) or - Other agencies deemed by CMS to accredit acute care hospitals
MRI, free standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or participating •Outpatient facilities providing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures shall be accredited in accordance with Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA 2008), currently applicable to all providers of Computed Tomography (CT) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), breast MRI, nuclear medicine, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exams. The American College

	of Radiology (ACR), the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), the Joint Commission (TJC) and RadSite have been deemed by CMS to provide this accreditation
Mammography suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Licensed by the State, if applicable; •Medicare authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B) •Facilities providing mammography shall meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements per the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act (MQSA) of 1998, as amended by H.R.4382
Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic (OT, PT, ST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B) • Rehabilitation facilities must maintain accreditation with Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), at a minimum. Rehabilitation facilities who maintain The Joint Commission (TJC) accreditation are not required to maintain a CARF accreditation as well. •Unless otherwise authorized by CO/COR, providers of blind or low-vision rehabilitation shall be certified by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP)
Pain Management Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)
Pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •The CCN Healthcare Services Network must always include a Pharmacy component. The Pharmacy component must always provide pharmacy benefits to Veterans through the use of a Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) function that has a retail pharmacy network to provide prescription fulfillment services for urgent/emergent prescriptions from CCN providers and VA providers when a VA Pharmacy is not available for prescription fulfillment. •All routine/maintenance prescriptions to be forwarded to VA pharmacy for processing and fulfillment.
Portable x-ray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Licensed by the state, if applicable; •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)

<p>Psychiatric partial hospitalization programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Maintain The Joint Commission (TJC) accreditation •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited
<p>Rural Health Clinic (RHC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Certified by the state survey agency •Medicare certified or Accredited by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) or -The Compliance Team (TCT) •RHCs are clinics that are located in areas that are designated both by the Bureau of the Census as rural and by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as medically underserved.
<p>Residential Treatment Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Maintain Joint Commission accreditation, or •Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited •In states lacking an established licensing program the facility must hold an appropriate accreditation such as The Joint Commission (TJC), or The Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or any other accrediting organization with comparable standards recognized by the State
<p>Radiology, free standing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B) •Outpatient facilities providing advanced diagnostic imaging procedures shall be accredited in accordance with Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA 2008), currently applicable to all providers of Computed Tomography (CT) Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), breast MRI, nuclear medicine, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exams. The American College of Radiology (ACR), the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), the Joint Commission (TJC) and RadSite have been deemed by CMS to provide this accreditation

<p>Substance user disorder rehabilitation facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Maintain The Joint Commission (TJC) accreditation •The Contractor must always ensure that rehabilitation facilities maintain accreditation with Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), at a minimum. Rehabilitation facilities who maintain a Joint Commission accreditation are not required to maintain a CARF accreditation as well. •Facilities prescribing Methadone and/or Buprenorphine must be SAMHSA certified
<p>Skilled Nursing Facility (Skilled)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited
<p>Skilled Nursing Facility (Unskilled)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws
<p>Sleep Study Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited and/or •American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), or •Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), and/or •Medicare authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)
<p>Urgent Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meet requirements of state and local laws •Medicare certified or authorized (enrolled to receive payment - Medicare Part B)