



“Universal Credentialing DataSource has significantly reduced the time and effort I put into the credentialing process. It allows me to spend more time with patients, and has improved the way I interact with health plans.”

– Mark Tuttle, M.D., Marlborough Family Practice, Marlborough, CT

Universal Credentialing DataSource

Join an industry effort to simplify credentialing for providers nationwide

Credentialing That Sets a New Standard

Health plans across the country are finding a better way to collect credentialing data from physicians and other licensed healthcare providers. Their solution? Universal Credentialing DataSource.

Developed by the not-for-profit Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), Universal Credentialing DataSource significantly reduces the administrative burden of credentialing. Through this innovative online service, providers complete one standardized application to meet the needs of all participating health plans and other healthcare organizations. Periodic electronic updates directly from providers raise the bar on quality and timeliness of data. The service is simple, convenient and secure.

Benefits to You

Universal Credentialing DataSource yields higher quality credentialing and demographic information than traditional paper processes. With access to comprehensive provider information, you can optimize credentialing workflows, improve provider directories and other member support services, and focus your organization on using data instead of collecting it.

Other Benefits Include:

- Instant access to completed provider applications and supporting documents, allowing rapid credentialing decisions
- Reduced paper, filing, and offsite storage needs
- Fewer administrative burdens for you and your providers
- Decreased outbound recredentialing notices, especially expensive certified mail
- Less follow-up with providers for omitted or illegible responses
- Increased automation of data entry

How It Works

CAQH worked with health plans, providers, accrediting bodies and other key stakeholders to develop Universal Credentialing DataSource. The result is a single, national process for collecting provider information that replaces the need for multiple credentialing applications.

Using the service is easy for providers and plans alike:

- Providers register online or by phone
- Credentialing information is submitted via the online application or faxed to a toll-free number
- Supporting documents are faxed and attached to providers' files as PDF images
- Authorized participating plans retrieve data in the format of their choice: ASCII, XML, PDF
- A toll-free help desk is available for providers and health plans

Flexibility For Unique Plan Needs

CAQH understands that each health plan is unique, and that a credentialing solution must allow plans flexibility. Universal Credentialing DataSource was designed by health plans to accommodate a wide range of your needs:

- Define your own recredentialing cycles
- Receive credentialing information as raw data or printable PDF images
- Determine your own approach for primary source verification
- Phase your implementation to be compatible with organizational priorities
- Select from a variety of tools to assist with getting started
- Access additional CAQH services beyond self-reported provider data, such as identifying providers who have received disciplinary sanctions



Cost

There is no charge for providers to use Universal Credentialing DataSource. Participating health plans pay an annual, per-provider fee for unlimited access to complete electronic records. In addition, there is an annual administrative fee to offset system maintenance and customer service requirements.

Who Can Participate

Participation in Universal Credentialing DataSource is open to all health plans and other organizations that perform credentialing. For more information, contact CAQH at 202.861.1492 or info@caqh.org.

“Universal Credentialing DataSource continues to have a positive impact on the way we do business. It's one way Aetna is working to simplify business transactions for participating physicians.”

– Allen Karp

Head, National Networks, Contracts & Strategy

Aetna

The Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare is a not-for-profit alliance of health plans and networks that promotes collaborative initiatives to help make healthcare more affordable, share knowledge to improve the quality of care, and make administration easier for physicians and their patients.