

SESSION 2:

THE MEDICAL STAFF CREDENTIALS POLICY – ESSENTIALS & UPDATES

AUGUST 14, 2026 (12:00 PM – 2:00 PM EASTERN)

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The second Pathways installment of 2026 will cover recommendations and updates for the Medical Staff Credentials Policy. The Credentials Policy serves as a guide to the Medical Staff's processes related to appointment, reappointment, and the granting of clinical privileges. It also provides tools for addressing performance issues when they arise and covers the details of the Medical Staff's formal peer review procedures (i.e., Medical Staff investigations, hearings, and appeals).

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Modern ***threshold eligibility criteria***, including trends in board certification requirements (are there any new Boards commonly being accepted by hospitals and/or payors?), requirements related to fulfillment of Medical Staff responsibilities (on-call, participation in training, and more!), and criteria to factor in at the time of reappointment;
- Options to ***build carefully-defined flexibility into the eligibility process***, without undermining objectivity or opening the flood gates (including routine exceptions, exceptional waivers, and clinical privileges with skills enhancement processes);
- Policy provisions that promote ***administrative management instead of adverse professional review action*** where subjective consideration of clinical performance and/or professional conduct are not required;
- Bylaw and policy language that ***distinguishes routine peer review from formal Medical Staff investigations***;
- Essential ***hearing and appeal provisions***, to ensure transparency and due process and maintain order over the proceedings.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this audio conference, participants should be able to:

1. Develop and adopt threshold eligibility criteria that reflect the Hospital's and Medical Staff's commitment to high quality medical care.
2. Develop Credentials Policy language providing methodical methods for making well-articulated, documented exceptions to threshold criteria for membership and/or privileges.
3. Clearly distinguish informal fact gathering and peer review from more formal investigations, corrective actions, hearings, and appeals.
4. Develop an expedited process for review of precautionary suspensions, to ensure practitioners subject to immediate action on their privileges have an imminent opportunity to be heard.