

Appendix B-2

Acceptance/continued participation criteria

Physician assistants

Amendments to this Appendix B-2 shall be effective as of January 25, 2021 (the “**Amendment Date**”).

To be initially admitted into the panel of providers participating in, or be permitted to continue participating in, the Priority Health network, Physician Assistants must satisfy the following criteria listed in this Appendix B-2 (the “**Policy**”).

1. Physician Assistants who are admitted to participate (or who are permitted to continue participating) in the Priority Health network are limited to providing office based services to adults, infants, children and adolescents, excluding obstetric services, that fall within the scope of practice of the Participating Physician(s) (the “**Collaborating Physician**”) who has agreed to enter into a “**Practice Agreement**” with the Physician Assistant in accordance with the terms of this Policy.
2. The Collaborating Physician must be a contracted, credentialed provider with Priority Health that currently practices medicine. At least one physician must agree to enter into a “**Practice Agreement**” with the Physician Assistant to act as the Collaborating Physician of such Physician Assistant to discharge such obligations with State regulations and Priority Health’s Policy. The scope of practice of the collaborating physician will be broad enough by specialty training and experience to cover the entire scope of practice of the Physician Assistant. Physician Assistants will be assigned a Self-designated Practice Focus based on the ACGME and AOA recognized specialties commensurate with their Collaborating Physician for display on Priority Health’s Provider Directory.
3. Physician Assistants must comply with all applicable provisions of the Michigan Public Health Code.
4. Physician Assistant must be a graduate of an approved physician assistant program.
5. Physician Assistants must possess, following attainment of a Physician Assistant certification, either (a) two (2) current and consecutive years of work experience in the field of practice, or (b) be a member of a Priority Health participating group that is focused on patient management in the field of practice.
6. Physician Assistants must hold valid, current, and unrestricted licenses/required certifications issued by the State of Michigan. Physician Assistants must provide information regarding any previous loss of license or certification, or any voluntary relinquishment of license or certification, and provide evidence that these earlier incidents do not demonstrate probable future substandard professional performance. A Physician Assistant without a valid license (whether due to suspension or revocation by the State of Michigan Licensing Board or failure to renew within the allowed grace period), shall be subject to automatic and immediate termination from the Priority Health network (without the opportunity to exercise any due process rights under the Disciplinary Action and Practitioner Appeal Policy).
7. Physician Assistants performing acupuncture must meet all applicable state requirements and have:
 - A masters or doctoral level degree in acupuncture or Oriental Medicine from a school accredited by the Accreditation Commission on Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM); and,

-
- A current, full, active, and unrestricted license to practice acupuncture in a State, Territory, or Commonwealth (i.e. Puerto Rico) of the United States or District of Columbia.
8. At the discretion of Priority Health, Physician Assistants may be required to satisfactorily complete an onsite visit and medical record review by Priority Health.
 9. Physician Assistants must provide evidence of their formal coverage arrangements for patient members requiring hospitalization or other specialized services beyond the scope of the practice site.
 10. Physician Assistants must provide evidence of their after hour's system which must provide for direct member communication with a participating practitioner and provide evidence of their ability to meet the Administrative Standard for After Hours Coverage.
 11. Physician Assistants must maintain current professional liability insurance coverage of \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate.
 12. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any denial or cancellation of professional liability insurance. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any such denial or cancellation of professional liability insurance, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
 13. Physician Assistants must demonstrate current, stable (consistent work history in the scope of practice), verifiable work history of the two (2) most recent, consecutive years (including training) as a Physician Assistant. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to Priority Health network to the extent an unstable (absence of consistent work history in the scope of practice) work history, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
 14. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any involvement in a malpractice suit, arbitration, or settlement arising out of their professional services, together with evidence of the circumstances of any such occurrence. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any such malpractice-related occurrences, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, are determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
 15. Physician Assistants must be in good standing under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs, adhering to all Medicare and Medicaid requirements including, but not limited to, the requirement to inform Priority Health of any changes to their Open/Closed status, street address, phone number, and office hours or other changes that affect availability to ensure accuracy of the Priority Health Provider Directory.
 16. Physician Assistants shall notify Priority Health in writing, of a change in or termination of a Practice Agreement within 10 business days of such change or termination. Failure to notify Priority Health within 10 business days of a change in or termination of a Practice Agreement shall be subject to automatic and immediate termination from the Priority Health network (without the opportunity to exercise any due process rights under the Disciplinary Action and Practitioner Appeal Policy).
-

17. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any involuntary termination or resignation of employment or other contractual arrangement pursuant to which they were engaged to furnish professional services. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any such involuntary termination or resignation, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
18. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any professional disciplinary action to which they were subject. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent such professional disciplinary action, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
19. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any occurrences involving their failure to conduct themselves with a professional demeanor or of engaging in abusive or inappropriate behavior in professional matters. The foregoing includes any formal or informal reprimands, letters in their employment file or other materials memorializing such conduct. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any such conduct, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
20. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to the appropriateness of their utilization management of medical resources. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any inappropriate utilization management, together with other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
21. Physician Assistants must have an absence of a history of indictment or criminal conviction; or, in the case of a practitioner with this history, evidence must be provided, in the form of a comprehensive narrative, to include all information relevant to the action taken and its satisfactory resolution, that this history is not indicative of probable future substandard professional performance. A conviction within the meaning of this criterion shall include a plea or verdict of guilty or a plea of no contest. The Credentialing Committee, in the exercise of its discretion, shall make the determination of sufficiency based on the information provided. Practitioner shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any indictment or criminal conviction, together with other factors in this Appendix, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network.
22. Physician Assistants must have an absence of any history, in addition to that specified in other Criteria, that in any way is indicative of probable future substandard professional performance.
23. Physician Assistants shall provide complete documentation relative to any physical, mental health, or substance abuse problems which may interfere with their ability to practice their profession or facilitate cooperative working relationships, or which may pose a threat to their patients. In conjunction with this requirement, Physician Assistants must cooperate openly and fully with any required health assessment and must provide any reasonably requested evidence of health status. Physician Assistants shall not be admitted to the Priority Health network to the extent any such problem (in the absence of evidence that such problem is being reasonably controlled), together with

other factors in this Appendix B-2, is determined to bear negatively upon their professional competence or conduct, or ability to successfully participate in the network. .

24. Physician Assistants under a group contract who are terminated from that group are no longer considered contracted with Priority Health and are subject to immediate and automatic termination from the Priority Health network. Physician Assistants may contact Priority Health to determine eligibility to contract with Priority Health on an individual basis.
25. Physician Assistants must comply with all Priority Health rules, regulations, bylaws, and the terms of their practitioner participation agreements.
26. Physician Assistants must demonstrate their willingness to provide appropriate and necessary emergency or non-emergency medical treatment within the scope of their expertise to any Priority Health member seeking treatment.
27. Physician Assistants shall not be known to have made any misrepresentations to Priority Health's Board of Directors, employees, agents, or enrollees regarding the provision of services to enrollees.
28. Physician Assistants shall provide accurate and complete information on their applications, timely respond to requests for additional information and promptly notify the Credentialing Committee regarding any changes in their status, including without limitation, any changes to the responses furnished in connection with their applications. Any Physician Assistants who do not comply with the foregoing shall have their applications considered incomplete and shall not be processed.
29. Effective September 23, 2003, any foreign-born Physician Assistant entering the United States must submit certification as issued by one of the following approved entities: The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, The Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, or another such organization that is subsequently approved by the Department of Homeland Security. Certification is required regardless if the applicant is educated and trained in the United States.
30. Physician Assistants credentialed previous to the Amendment Date and continuously contracted with Priority Health shall be recertified according to the Acceptance/Continued Participation Criteria effective at the time of their original credentialing.