

Credentialing & Enrollment Acronym & Terminology Cheat Sheet

Keeping your provider's credentialing and enrollment up-to-date and accurate can be a huge time drain. Even the smallest error can have dire consequences to your provider's reimbursement.

A key to getting it right is mastering the numerous acronyms, their definitions and associated websites. This tool contains 4 charts, they include:

1. Top Credentialing and Enrollment **Acronyms, Definitions and Websites**
2. Physician **Specialty Specific** Credentialing Board Verifications
3. Medicare Authorized **Non-Physician Practitioner** Credential Verification
4. **Medicare Specific** Acronyms, Definitions and Websites

Use this tool to help you make credentialing and enrolling your provider faster, easier and more accurate – the first time.

Top Credentialing and Enrollment Acronyms, Definitions and Websites Sorted by Acronym

Acronym	Acronym Defined	Function	Website
AANPCB	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board	Society provides credentialing and education for advanced practice registered nurses.	Verify Nurse Practitioner (NP) certification: <i>(additional fee required)</i> https://www.aanpcert.org/verify
ABA	American Board of Audiology	Board creates, administers and promotes credentialing programs in the field of audiology.	Audiologist credentials can only be verified by email or fax: https://www.boardofaudiology.org/
ABIM	American Board of Internal Medicine	A physician-led, non-profit, independent evaluation Board that credentials providers in Internal Medicine.	Internal medicine certification board: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://www.abim.org/
ABMS	American Board of Medical Specialties	Certifies and recertifies a variety of medical specialty boards.	Certification verification: https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
ABPTS	American Board of Physical Therapist Specialties	The Board is the governing body for Physician Therapist certification and recertification.	Find a board-certified physical therapist: http://aptaapps.apta.org/APTAPtDirectory/CertifiedSpecialistDirectory.aspx?navID=10737423515
AMA	American Medical Association	Primary medical society for physicians in the United States.	Credentialing verification: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://commerce.ama-assn.org/amaprofiles/
AMCB	American Midwifery Certification Board	The national certifying body for nurse-midwifery education.	Instant verification search: https://ams.amcbmidwife.org/amcbssa/f?p=AMCBSSA:17800
AOIA	American Osteopathic Information Association	Association represents osteopathic medical doctors and medical students in the United States.	Certification verification: https://aoaprofiles.org/
ASPPB	Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards	Association provides consistent standards that ensure the competent practice of psychology.	State specific psychology licensing board list with links: https://www.asppb.net/page/LicenseLookup
ASWB	Association for Social Work Boards	Nonprofit association dedicated to social work regulation, education and certification.	Look up a social work license by state: https://www.aswb.org/licenses/protecting-the-public/look-up-license/
CAQH	Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare	A centralized database to eliminate paperwork duplication related to claims' administration, credentialing, directory services, etc.	CAQH ProView: https://proview.caqh.org
CDR	Commission on Dietetic Registration	The Commission provides a valid, reliable credentialing process to registered dietitians.	Online Credential Verification System for registered dietitians: https://secure.eatright.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?wam=CDR900&webtrn=entrywr&ml=LANSAXHTML&part=PRD&lang=ENG
CDS	Controlled Dangerous Substances	Some states require a CDS certificate for providers to be authorized to prescribe controlled substances. The National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) has detailed information on each state's requirements.	Detailed information on state certificate requirements related to prescription drug prescribing permission. http://www.nascsa.org/

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CME	Continuing Medical Education	Specific to medical specialties and state rules, providers must obtain a certain number of related credits over a specific period of time to keep their accreditation and/or license active.	
CMS	Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CMS regulates Medicare and Medicaid related transactions.	Centralized Enrollment for providers and suppliers related to Medicare and Medicaid: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification
CNS	Clinical Nurse Specialist	The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is an independent, not-for-profit nursing organization. It manages the verification service: Nursys.	Nursing license verification nationally and by state: https://www.nursys.com/
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration	Managed by the US Department of Justice (DOJ). The DEA provides centralized management and enforcement of prescribing in the United States. Many states have specific rules you must comply with in addition to the DEA's national rules. All qualified practitioners who write prescriptions must have a DEA number.	Providers can register, renew or change information related to their DEA prescribing number. A verification service is also available: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/online_forms_apps.html
DMEPOS	Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetic and Orthotic Suppliers	Suppliers who receive Medicare reimbursement for durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) are required to register on this site.	Enroll as a DMEPOS provider to be granted approval to bill for services provided to Medicare patients: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/Enroll-as-a-DMEPOS-Supplier
FSMB	Federation of State Medical Boards	Centralized site to manage and track provider credentials, licensing and other requirements. The organization represents the 71-state medical and osteopathic boards of the United States.	FSMB Physician Data Center: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://www.fsmb.org/PDC/
NBCRNA	National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists	The Board nation's certifying body for the initial and continued certification for US Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).	Verify Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) credentials: https://portal.nbcrna.com/nbcrnassa/f?p=NBCRNASSA:17800
NCCAA	National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants	The Commission provides management and regulation related to the certification and education of Anesthesia Assistants.	Certified Anesthesia Assistant search by state. Once at the website below, scroll down the page and click on the map of the US: https://www.nccaatest.org/
NSC	National Supplier Clearinghouse	The Clearinghouse is solely responsible for issuing or revoking Medicare supplier billing privileges for suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS).	State Licensing Guidelines: https://www.palmettogba.com/licensure/licdirec.nsf/NSCLicensureMap_N

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NPI	National Provider Identifier	A unique 10-digit identification number issued by CMS to healthcare providers in the U.S. You must have an NPI number to bill Medicare. Other payers and services utilize it as well.	Enroll for a new NPI number or manage your account: https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/ Search NPI Records: https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/
NPP	Nonphysician practitioner	A variety of credentialed medical professionals make up NPPS. Each type of NPP has its own governing body that manages credentialing.	Only certain NPP providers are authorized to bill Medicare. Find a list of Medicare-allowed NPPs later in this document.
NPPES	National Plan and Provider Enumeration System	This system is managed by CMS and is responsible for assigning a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI) to healthcare providers that allows them to bill Medicare for their services. Other payers use NPIs as well.	Create a new account or login: https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/ Search NPI Records: https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/
OIG LEIE	Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals and Entities	A list maintained by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that includes a list of providers who are not allowed to participate in Medicare, Medicaid or any other federal healthcare program. Your practice can be found liable if you employ and bill Medicare for an excluded provider's services.	Check a provider's exclusion status: https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/
NBCOT	National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy	The Board sets the standard for professional growth, advancement, and practice excellence in occupational therapy.	Occupational Therapist credential verification: <i>(You'll find the "Verify" link just below the masthead on the home page)</i> https://www.nbcot.org/
NCCPA	National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants	The National Commission is the only certifying organization for physician assistants in the United States	Physician Assistant credential verification: https://www.nccpa.net/verify-pa.aspx
PECOS	Provider Enrollment and Chain/Ownership System	This System allows you to manage and submit enrollment data securely and electronically directly to Medicare. To bill Medicare, your provider must be registered with PECOS.	Set up or login to your PECOS account: https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/
PTAN	Provider Transaction Access Number	When your provider enrollment to Medicare is approved, your assigned Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will issue them a PTAN. Your PTAN is used to authenticate your provider when they deal with the MAC.	An identifier used to authenticate you are who you say you are when you contact your MAC. Because your PTAN is used as an authenticator, there is not a national directory to search for PTANs. You can find your PTAN on your Medicare approval letter. You should also be able to find it in your PECOS account.

Physician Specialty Specific Credentialing Board Certification Sorted by Specialty

Specialty	Governing Group	Verification Website
Allergy	American Board of Allergy and Immunology	https://www.abai.org/doctors
Anesthesiology	American Board of Anesthesiology	https://www.theaba.org/diplomate%20directory.html
Colon and Rectal Surgery	American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery	http://www.abcrs.org/verify-a-physician-2/
Dermatology	American Board of Dermatology via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
Emergency Medicine	American Board of Emergency Medicine	https://www.abem.org/public/about-abem/who-is-abem-certified
Family Medicine	American Board of Family Medicine	https://portfolio.theabfm.org/diplomate/verify.aspx
Head and Neck Surgery	American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	https://www.aboto.org/ABOInternet/VerifyPhysicianCertification
Immunology	American Board of Allergy and Immunology	https://www.abai.org/doctors
Internal Medicine	American Board of Internal Medicine	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
Neurological Surgery	American Board of Neurological Surgery	https://abns.org/find-a-neurosurgeon/
Neurology	American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry	https://application.abpn.com/verifycert/verifycert.asp?a=1
Nuclear Medicine	American Board of Nuclear Medicine via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
OB-GYN	American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology	https://www.abog.org/verify-physician
Ophthalmology	American Board of Ophthalmology via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
Orthopedic Surgery	American Board of Orthopedic Surgery	https://www.abos.org/portal/verifycertification.aspx
Pathology	American Board of Pathology via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
Pediatrics	American Board of Pediatrics	https://www.abp.org/content/verification-certification
PM&R	American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehab	https://www.abpmr.org/PhysicianSearch/Search
Osteopathic Physicians	American Osteopathic Information Association	https://aoaprofiles.org/
Otolaryngology	American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	https://www.aboto.org/ABOInternet/VerifyPhysicianCertification
Plastic Surgery	American Board of Plastic Surgery	https://www.abplasticsurgery.org/public/verify-certification/VerifyCert?section=SurgeonSearch
Preventive Medicine	American Board of Preventive Medicine	https://certification.theabpm.org/physician-lookup
Psychiatry	American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry	https://application.abpn.com/verifycert/verifycert.asp?a=1
Radiology	American Board of Radiology	https://www.theabr.org/myabr/find-a-radiologist
Sleep	American Board of Sleep Medicine	https://my.absm.org/listing.aspx
Surgery	American Board of Surgery	https://www.absurgery.org/app.jsp?type=vc&id=27
Thoracic Surgery	American Board of Thoracic Surgery via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/
Urology	American Board of Urology via ABMS	https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/

Medicare Authorized Non-Physician Practitioner Credential Verification

Sorted by Specialty

Anesthesiology	National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCA)	Certified Anesthesia Assistant search by state (scroll down the page and click on the map of the US): https://www.nccaatest.org/	The certification process for anesthesiologist assistants includes an initial certifying examination, ongoing registration of continuing medical education, and interval examinations for continued demonstration of qualifications.
Audiology	American Board of Audiology (ABA)	You cannot verify Audiologist credentials online. You must submit them via email or fax. You can find the information here: https://www.boardofaudiology.org/	Creates, administers and promotes credentialing programs in the field of audiology.
Dietician	Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)	Online Credential Verification System for registered dietitians: https://secure.eatright.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?wam=CDR900&webtrn=entrywr&ml=LANSAXHTML&part=PRD&lang=ENG	Valid, reliable, and rigorous credentialing processes to protect the public and meet the needs of CDR credentialed practitioners, employers and consumers.
OB-GYN	American Midwifery Certification Board (AMBC)	Instant verification search: https://ams.amcbmidwife.org/amcbssa/f?p=AMCBSSA:17800	The national certifying body for candidates in nurse-midwifery and midwifery who have received their graduate level education in programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)
Occupational Therapy	National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)	Occupational Therapist credential verification. You'll find the "Verify" link just below the masthead on the home page: https://www.nbcot.org/	Sets the standard for lifelong professional growth, advancement, and practice excellence in occupational therapy.
Psychology	Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)	State specific psychology licensing board list with links: https://www.asppb.net/page/LicenseLookup	Consistent standards that ensure the competent practice of psychology.
Physical Therapy	American Board of Physical Therapist Specialties (ABPTS)	Find a Board-Certified Physical Therapist: http://aptaapps.apta.org/APTAPtDirectory/CertifiedSpecialistDirectory.aspx?navID=10737423515	Coordinates and oversees the specialist certification process, is the governing body for certification and recertification of clinical specialists.
Social Work	Association for Social Work Boards (ASWB)	Look up a social work license by state: https://www.aswb.org/licenses/protecting-the-public/look-up-license/	The only nonprofit organization dedicated to social work regulation. It is composed of and owned by the social work regulatory boards and colleges of all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and all 10 Canadian provinces.

Medicare Specific Acronyms, Definitions and Websites

Sorted by Acronym

Acronym	Acronym Defined	Function	Website
CAQH	Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare	A centralized database to eliminate paperwork duplication related to claims' administration, credentialing, directory services, etc.	CAQH ProView: https://proview.caqh.org
CMS	Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services	Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CMS regulates Medicare and Medicaid related transactions.	Centralized Enrollment for providers and suppliers related to Medicare and Medicaid: <i>(additional required fee)</i> https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification
DMEPOS	Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetic and Orthotic Suppliers	Suppliers who receive Medicare reimbursement for durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) are required to register on this site.	Enroll as a DMEPOS provider to be granted approval to bill for services provided to Medicare patients: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/Enroll-as-a-DMEPOS-Supplier
NPI	National Provider Identifier	A unique 10-digit identification number issued by CMS to healthcare providers in the U.S. You must have an NPI number to bill Medicare. Other payers and services utilize it as well.	Enroll for a new NPI number or manage your account: https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/
NPPES	National Plan and Provider Enumeration System	This system is managed by CMS and is responsible for assigning a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI) to healthcare providers that allows them to bill Medicare for their services. Other payers use NPIs as well.	Search NPI Records: https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/ Create a new account or login: https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/ Search NPI Records: https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/
OIG LEIE	Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals and Entities	A list maintained by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that includes a list of providers who are not allowed to participate in Medicare, Medicaid or any other federal healthcare program. Your practice can be found liable if you employ and bill Medicare for an excluded provider's services.	Check a provider's exclusion status: https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/
PECOS	Provider Enrollment and Chain/Ownership System	This system allows you to manage and submit enrollment data securely and electronically directly to Medicare. To bill Medicare, your provider must be registered with PECOS.	Set up or login to your PECOS account: https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/
PTAN	Provider Transaction Access Number	When your provider enrollment to Medicare is approved, your assigned Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will issue them a PTAN. Your PTAN is used to authenticate your provider when they deal with the MAC.	An identifier used to authenticate you are who you say you are when you contact your MAC. Because your PTAN is used as an authenticator, there is not a national directory to search for PTANs. You can find your PTAN on your Medicare approval letter. You should also be able to find it in your PECOS account.



This tool has been prepared in conjunction with certified credentialing specialist, **Yesenia Servin, CPMSM, PESC**. Learn more about Yesenia's latest training entitled [“Cut Through CAQH Credentialing Portal Confusion to Get Paid Faster.”](#) This CAQH ProView portal training will help you bypass provider wait times, take control of the credentialing process, and get the job done faster and easier than ever before.



For more credentialing and enrollment practical advice, there is more help from experts at <https://healthcare.trainingleader.com/product-category/credentialing/>. Save 10% on your next training with coupon **toolten**.