

## **Board Certification Exception Process (CR-22) Frequently Asked Questions**

*The Plan requests that all physician practitioners, either participating or seeking participation status with the Plan, be board-certified and maintain or continue their certification in their specialty and applicable sub-specialty; actively enrolled in the certification process by a board; and/or enrolled in the applicable Maintenance Program (collectively, "Board Certification Requirement"). Physicians who can no longer provide confirmation of the above may seek an exception to board certification.*

*Please refer to the below frequently asked questions for further guidance.*

**Q: I have completed training from an accredited Internship, Residency and/or Fellowship Program and I am eligible to sit for the board certification exam. What is the expectation of the Health Plan to accept or continue my credentialing/participation?**

**A:** If you are within the timeframe established by your board to sit for the examination, the Plan allows you to provide that information for consideration. However, if you are five or more years post graduate training the Plan will require documented proof of registration for the board examination. If you have not yet registered for the examination, the Plan will ask for documented completion of a board review course, in your practicing specialty. In addition, you must provide proof of a minimum of 50 hours of Category One CME annually, in the specialty for which you are seeking participation.

**Q: I recently allowed my board certification to expire. I remain eligible to sit for the recertification examination, yet I have no plans to do so at this time. What is the expectation of the Health Plan to accept or continue my credentialing/participation?**

**A:** The Plan will require documented completion of a board review course in your practicing specialty. In addition, you will be required to provide documentation of completion of fifty (50) Category One CME credits annually, directly in the specialty for which you are currently participating.

**Q: I recently allowed my board certification to expire and am no longer eligible to sit for the recertification examination. What is the expectation of the Health Plan to accept and/or continue my credentialing/participation?**

**A:** The Plan will require that you participate/enroll in a Continuous Certification or Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program or provide documented completion of a board review course in your practicing specialty. In addition, you will be required to provide documentation of completion of 50 Category One CME credits annually, directly in the specialty for which you are currently participating.

**Q: I have unsuccessfully sat for the board examination on multiple attempts. What is the expectation of the Health Plan to accept and/or continue my credentialing/participation?**

**A:** If you have been unsuccessful passing the board examination following a minimum of four (4) attempts, the Plan will require that you participate/enroll in a Continuous Certification or Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program or provide documented completion of a board review course in your practicing specialty. In addition, you will be required to provide documentation of completion of 50 Category One CME credits annually, directly in the specialty for which you are currently participating.

**Q: I have completed my residency and/or training at a foreign institution, not recognized by the boards accepted by the Health Plan. I am considering an alternate pathway certification. What would I need to provide the Plan to be considered for credentialing/participating?**

**A:** The Plan will ask for evidence to substantiate the existence of the alternative pathway, the validity of the process, and your acceptance into the program. Proof of acceptance will consist of a letter from the program to the physician acknowledging your acceptance. In addition, two letters of recommendation from a board-certified physician, or program director in your specialty.

**Q: What does the Health Plan consider an acceptable board review course by the Plan?**

**A:** This course must be recognized by a certifying board and offering AMA PRA or AOA-accredited Category One credits for its completion.

**Q: How often will I be required to complete a board review course to maintain my credentials/participation?**

**A:** You will be required to complete a board review course every three (3) years, prior to each recertification cycle. This course must be completed at least six (6) months prior to the expiration date of your credentials. This requirement remains in effect until you become board-certified or terminate your relationship with the Plan.