



## **Bulletin OHIC-2022- 04**

### **Issued [month] [day], 2022**

### **Effective September 7, 2022**

# **Provider Credentialing and Recredentialing Applicants**

## **Clarification Regarding the Term “Applicant”**

### **Introduction**

The State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) issues this bulletin for the purpose of providing clarification of the term “applicant” as used in [230-RICR-20-30-9.8](#). The bulletin is consistent with the health insurance commissioner’s authority under [State of Rhode Island General Laws § 42-14.5-2](#).

This part of the regulation pertains to the requirements for professional provider credentialing and recredentialing. Prior to issuance of this bulletin, OHIC received inquiries about the applicable scope of the requirements set forth in this part of the regulation. Specifically at issue was whether these requirements apply in relation to all professional providers applying for network privileges with a health care entity’s<sup>1</sup> certified network plan (i.e., inclusive of providers licensed and practicing in the State of Rhode Island and providers licensed and practicing outside of the State of Rhode Island who are included in the health care entity’s certified network plan providing services to network plan members) or whether its requirements apply only to professional providers licensed and practicing in Rhode Island who are applying or reapplying for network privileges. OHIC recognizes that numerous states have varying statutory and/or regulatory professional provider credentialing/recredentialing requirements, some in direct conflict with Rhode Island’s. Therefore, if these requirements in the regulation were applicable in relation to out-of-state professional provider applicants seeking to be credentialed or recredentialed by a health care entity, it would create administrative and compliance challenges for network plans offering network plan coverage across multiple states.

### **The Term “Applicant”**

OHIC understands the term “applicant,” as used in [230-RICR-20-30-9.8](#), to mean a professional provider licensed, accredited, or certified to perform specified health care services in Rhode Island who applies to

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<sup>1</sup> OHIC Regulation 230-RICR-20-30-9.3(A)(14) defines “Health care entity” as “an insurance company licensed, or required to be licensed, by the state of Rhode Island or other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the [Health Insurance] Commissioner or the jurisdiction of the department of business regulation that contracts or offers to contract, or enters into an agreement to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services, including, without limitation: a for-profit or nonprofit hospital, medical or dental service corporation or plan, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance company, or any other entity providing health insurance, accident and sickness insurance, health benefits, or health care services. Entity shall have the same meaning as health care entity for purposes of these regulations.”



a health care entity for credentialing or recredentialing privileges for the purpose of providing these health care services in the state of Rhode Island. The office does not understand the term “applicant” as used in [230-RICR-20-30-9.8](#) to include a professional provider licensed and practicing outside the state of Rhode Island who submits a credentialing or recredentialing application to a health care entity for the purpose of providing health care services outside the state of Rhode Island. Therefore, OHIC interprets the provisions of [230-RICR-20-30-9.8](#) as not applicable in the context of a professional provider licensed and practicing outside the state of Rhode Island who submits a credentialing or recredentialing application to a health care entity for the purpose of providing health care services outside the state of Rhode Island.

Note, the clarification of the term “applicant” set forth in this bulletin is solely in reference to the use of the term “applicant” as it appears in [230-RICR-20-30-9.8](#). The clarification of the term “applicant” set forth in this bulletin is not applicable to the term “applicant” as it is used in [230-RICR-20-30-9.4\(C\)\(2\)](#), which refers to a health care entity that is applying for network plan certification or recertification with OHIC.

### **Expectations**

It is OHIC’s expectation that health care entities that perform credentialing or recredentialing activities in connection with applications submitted by professional providers licensed and practicing in a state other than Rhode Island will comply with that respective state’s credentialing/recredentialing requirements or National Committee for Quality Assurance credentialing standards, whichever is stricter. Health care entities are expected to revise all applicable policies and procedures to reflect the guidance in this bulletin.

### **Conclusion**

This bulletin shall take effect on September 7, 2022.

Dated at Cranston, Rhode Island this [day]th day of [month] 2022.

Patrick M. Tigue  
Health Insurance Commissioner