

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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CPSP Program Letter 94-01

To: Maternal and Child Health Directors
Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)
Coordinators

Subject: Procedure Change for Initial and Ongoing Certification of
Physicians Providing CPSP Services

Recently, it has come to the attention of CPSP staff that physicians whose licenses have been suspended, restricted or revoked, or whose licenses are in process of suspension, restriction or revocation, have applied to become providers. This has raised concerns regarding the delivery of quality comprehensive perinatal services. As a part of the application process, CPSP is required by law to consider the ability of the physician to provide quality of care as described in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 51249 (b). The criteria used to make this determination include:

- Provider's ability to provide the services specified in Section 51348 through the provider's own service or through subcontractors.
- Training and experience of providers rendering services specified in Section 51348.
- Quality of care rendered by providers as evidenced by history of:
 1. Revocations, suspensions, or restrictions by a licensing authority.
 2. The extent of training received in the provision of comprehensive perinatal care which has been approved by the State.

To fulfill this mandate, the following is established as procedure:

1. Approved CPSP providers will include licensed physicians without revocations, suspensions or restrictions placed on their license by the Medical Board of California (MBC). Any applicant who has been placed on probation or is under formal investigation by the MBC will have his/her CPSP application denied until the period of probation has been satisfactorily completed, or the investigation is satisfactorily concluded. Reapplication to become a CPSP provider will be considered by the Department when the provider has completed probation.
2. Requests for changes to certified provider applications are subject to the same procedures as for new applicant providers. Therefore, any provider who requests a change to a certified application (i.e., addition of new medical staff), which includes a physician who has formal complaints pending against him/her by either local, state, or federal licensing authorities concerning his/her practice of medicine or participation in the Medi-Cal program, will be informed that their application or change request will be denied until the final disposition of the complaint(s). At that time, the applicant may resubmit an application and furnish appropriate documentation indicating disposition of the matter.
3. Effective January 1, 1994, the Medi-Cal Provider Verification program will initiate a verification process of all applicant physicians and physicians included in application changes. Applicants and coordinators will be notified as soon as possible if issues are identified that require additional information.
4. In the event that an approved CPSP physician provider has his/her medical license suspended, revoked or restricted (including probation), the Department will review the CPSP application and suspend or withdraw approved status until such time as these actions are resolved.

If you have questions concerning this policy clarification, please contact Terrence Smith, M.D., Chief, Perinatal Care Section at (916) 657-1363.

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