

DATE: December 2, 2021

TO: Health Plan Issuers and Interested Parties

FROM: Mark V. Afable, Commissioner of Insurance

SUBJECT: Credentialing of Temporary Licensed Health Care Providers Pursuant to 2021 Wis. Act 10

Under 2021 Wis. Act 10 (Act 10), health care providers, including physicians, registered nurses etc., who are credentialed in another state may provide care in Wisconsin consistent with their out of state credentialing if they apply with the Department of Safety and Professional Services for a temporary license within 30 days. If granted a temporary license, health care providers may practice in Wisconsin while their application for permanent licensure is pending. These temporary credentialing provisions remain in effect for the duration of the federal public health emergency related to COVID-19.

OCI requests that all health insurers refrain from making any coverage determinations based solely on the fact that a health care provider is operating under temporary licensure. OCI also requests that health insurers not refuse to add a health care provider to its network based solely on the fact that the health care provider is operating under a temporary license. Finally, OCI asks that health insurers consider developing procedures to grant temporary credentialing or retroactive credentialing to health care providers who are operating under the provisions of Act 10.

The Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to place strains on the capacity of the health care system. OCI encourages health insurers to remove barriers to insurance credentialing to ensure there are sufficient numbers of health care providers to meet the needs of COVID-19 patients in this state.

2021 Wis. Act 10 may be found here. Any questions concerning this bulletin should be directed to Nathan Houdek at Nathan.Houdek@wisconsin.gov.