



PROVIDER *bulletin*

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KHS Policy and Procedure 4.04-P Non-Physician Medical Practitioners

Kern Health Systems encourages the use of non-physician medical practitioners also referred to as mid-level providers, or physician extenders, with the intent of increasing member access to medical care and thereby improving patient outcome.

Kern Health Systems (KHS) has a long-standing Policy and Procedure 4.04-P Non-Physician Medical Practitioners outlining the training and experience requirements for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants requesting to be credentialed in a specific sub-specialty.

Specifically, Section 2.0 Scope of Mid-Level Practitioners addresses the credentialing will be dependent of the Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistants formal training and experience in the field of sub-specialty practice, such as Cardiology, Nephrology, Rheumatology etc. The policy has a footnote outlining the requirements as follows:

“Mid-level training is variable. Not only are there differences between Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, but there are significant differences between the programs themselves. In addition, some mid-levels go on to receive formal “specialty” training in areas like OB, peds, surgery, ortho, oncology, etc. KHS will require either 6-months formal training in a program or one year of full-time experience in the field which credentialing is requested.”

As a public plan, KHS must ensure our members are treated by trained and experienced providers. Abiding by our current Policy & Procedure requiring formal training in a specialized field or 1-year experience in the specialized field for NPs and PAs is essential.

KHS appreciates the additions to your groups and know the practitioners will gain this experience & knowledge at your practice. KHS looks forward to adding these practitioners to your practice upon completion of 1-year requirement. Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants that do not meet KHS requirements will be declined and should refrain from treating KHS members until such time they qualify to be credentialed within the KHS Network.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Provider Relations Representative at 661-664-5000. Thank you support & understanding of our credentialing policies, procedures, and the importance of meeting all mandatory state, federal requirements for credentialing.

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