



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-Q

OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 09-069

31 AUG 2009

Expires 31 August 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Credentialing and Privileging in Sub-Specialties of Behavioral Health Professions

1. References.

- a. Army Regulation 40-68, Clinical Quality Management, RAR, 22 May 2009.
- b. The American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). Certification requirements can be found at: http://www.abpp.org/abpp_certification_specialties.htm.
- c. The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc (ABPN). Certification requirements can be found at: www.abpn.com.

2. Purpose: To provide guidelines on the qualifications required for the credentialing and privileging of sub-specialists in behavioral health fields.

3. Proponent: Assistant Chief of Staff, Health Policy and Services, Quality Management Division.

4. Background.

a. The precise qualifications necessary for granting privileges in sub-specialties of clinical psychology, psychiatry and social work are not clearly defined in current Army Regulation. Generally, the qualifications for privileging in a sub-specialty of all professions are the qualifications required to be eligible for board certification in that sub-specialty.

b. The ABPP defines requirements for eligibility for board certification in subspecialties of clinical psychology.

c. The ABPN defines these requirements for psychiatrists.

d. Social work does not have specific sub-specialties, but has additional certifications. The requirements for additional certifications are defined by law and

MCHO-CL-Q

SUBJECT: Requirements and Procedures for Credentialing and Privileging in Sub-Specialties of Behavioral Health Professions

Army Regulations. An example is certification in alcohol and substance abuse (addictions).

5. Clinical Psychology Sub-specialties. Candidates must meet all requirements for credentialing and privileging as a Clinical Psychologist. Clinical psychologists who are ABPP certified in the sub-specialty are eligible for privileges in that sub-specialty. Graduates of Army post-doctoral specialty training programs are recognized as eligible for privileging in that specialty. All education and training programs must meet American Psychological Association (APA) accreditation requirements. Additional ABPP requirements by subspecialty are as follows:

a. Child and Adolescent Psychology. Completion of an approved, formal post-doctoral residency training program in clinical child and adolescent psychology or 1 year of supervised practice plus one additional year of work experience primarily with children and adolescents.

b. Clinical Health Psychology. Completion of a post-doctoral internship in clinical health psychology or 5 years of acceptable qualifying experience. The qualifying experience must include a pre-doctoral internship, at least 1 year of full-time supervised health psychology experience at the post-doctoral level, and the equivalent of at least 1 year of additional experience as a clinical health psychologist.

c. Forensic Psychology. At least 100 hours of formal education, direct supervision or continuing education in forensic psychology and at least 1000 hours of experience in forensic psychology obtained by completion of a full-time formal post-doctoral training program or practice over a minimum period of 4 post-doctoral years.

d. Neuropsychology. Eligibility for neuropsychology certification/privileges is the most complex of the sub-specialties of psychology.

(1) For clinical psychologists receiving their doctoral degree between 1 January 1990 and 1 January 2005, all three of the following requirements must be met:

(a) Training and experience in basic neurosciences, functional neuroanatomy, neuropathology, clinical neurology, psychological assessment, clinical neuropsychological assessment, psychopathology, and psychological intervention.

(b) Two years of supervision in the practice of the specialty which may be met by successful completion of an accredited post-doctoral program, 2 years of post-doctoral supervision, or 1 year of pre-doctoral and 1 year of post-doctoral supervision in the specialty.

MCHO-CL-Q

SUBJECT: Requirements and Procedures for Credentialing and Privileging in Sub-Specialties of Behavioral Health Professions

(c) The equivalent of 3 years of experience in the specialty area only 1 year of which may be pre-doctoral. A 2-year post-doctoral training program meets the requirements for 2 of these 3 years.

(2) Clinical psychologists receiving their doctoral degrees after 1 January 2005 must complete a 2-year accredited residency program in neuropsychology.

6. Psychiatry Sub-specialties. With the exception of some combined programs, all physicians must have completed a residency in general psychiatry prior to beginning specialty.

a. Addiction Psychiatry. Completion of a fellowship program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or certification in addiction psychiatry by the ABPN.

b. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Completion of a fellowship program accredited by the ACGME or certification in child and adolescent psychiatry by the ABPN.

c. Forensic Psychiatry. Completion of a fellowship program accredited by the ACGME or certification in forensic psychiatry by the ABPN.

d. Geriatric Psychiatry. Completion of a fellowship program accredited by the ACGME or certification in geriatric psychiatry by the ABPN.

e. Psychosomatic Medicine (Consultative/Liaison Psychiatry). Completion of a fellowship program accredited by the ACGME or certification in psychosomatic medicine by the ABPN.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


HERBERT A. COLEY
Chief of Staff