

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Health Care Professional Credentials Data  
5 Collection Act is amended by changing Sections 5, 15, 20, 25,  
6 30, and 35 as follows:

7 (410 ILCS 517/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

9 ~~"Council" means the Health Care Credentials Council.~~

10 "Credentials data" means those data, information, or  
11 answers to questions required by a health care entity, health  
12 care plan, or hospital to complete the credentialing or  
13 recredentialing of a health care professional.

14 "Credentialing" means the process of assessing and  
15 validating the qualifications of a health care professional.

16 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

17 "Director" means the Director of the Department of Public  
18 Health.

19 "Health care entity" means any of the following which  
20 require the submission of credentials data: (i) a health care  
21 facility or other health care organization licensed or  
22 certified to provide medical or health services in Illinois,  
23 other than a hospital; (ii) a health care professional

1 partnership, corporation, limited liability company,  
2 professional services corporation or group practice; or (iii)  
3 an independent practice association or physician hospital  
4 organization. Nothing in this definition shall be construed to  
5 mean that a hospital is a health care entity.

6 "Health care plan" means any entity licensed by the  
7 Department of Insurance as a prepaid health care plan or  
8 health maintenance organization or as an insurer which  
9 requires the submission of credentials data.

10 "Health care professional" means any person licensed under  
11 the Medical Practice Act of 1987 or any person licensed under  
12 any other Act subsequently made subject to this Act by the  
13 Department.

14 "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under the Hospital  
15 Licensing Act or any hospital organized under the University  
16 of Illinois Hospital Act.

17 "Recredentialing" means the process by which a health care  
18 entity, health care plan or hospital ensures that a health  
19 care professional who is currently credentialed by the health  
20 care entity, health care plan or hospital continues to meet  
21 the credentialing criteria used by the health care entity,  
22 health care plan, or hospital no more than once every 3 ~~2~~  
23 years.

24 "Single credentialing cycle" means a process whereby for  
25 purposes of recredentialing each health care professional's  
26 credentials data are collected by all health care entities and

1 health care plans that credential the health care professional  
2 during the same time period and only once every 3 ~~2~~ years.

3 "Site survey" means a process by which a health care  
4 entity or health care plan assesses the office locations and  
5 medical record keeping practices of a health care  
6 professional.

7 "Single site survey" means a process by which, for  
8 purposes of recredentialing, each health care professional  
9 receives a site visit only once every two years.

10 "Uniform health care credentials form" means the form  
11 prescribed ~~developed~~ by the Department under Section 15 to  
12 collect the credentials data commonly requested by health care  
13 entities and health care plans for purposes of credentialing.

14 "Uniform health care recredentials form" means the form  
15 prescribed ~~developed~~ by the Department under Section 15 to  
16 collect the credentials data commonly requested by health care  
17 entities and health care plans for purposes of  
18 recredentialing.

19 "Uniform hospital credentials form" means the form  
20 prescribed ~~developed~~ by the Department under Section 15 to  
21 collect the credentials data commonly requested by hospitals  
22 for purposes of credentialing.

23 "Uniform hospital recredentials form" means the form  
24 prescribed ~~developed~~ by the Department under Section 15 to  
25 collect the credentials data commonly requested by hospitals  
26 for purposes of recredentialing.

1 "Uniform site survey instrument" means the instrument  
2 developed by the Department under Section 25 to complete a  
3 single site survey as part of a credentialing or  
4 recredentialing process.

5 "Uniform updating form" means the a standardized form  
6 prescribed by the Department for reporting of corrections,  
7 updates, and modifications to credentials data to health care  
8 entities, health care plans, and hospitals when those data  
9 change following credentialing or recredentialing of a health  
10 care professional.

11 (Source: P.A. 91-602, eff. 8-16-99.)

12 (410 ILCS 517/15)

13 Sec. 15. Development and use of uniform health care and  
14 hospital credentials forms.

15 (a) The Department, ~~in consultation with the council,~~  
16 shall by rule establish:

17 (1) a uniform health care credentials form that shall  
18 include the credentials data commonly requested by health  
19 care entities and health care plans for purposes of  
20 credentialing and shall minimize the need for the  
21 collection of additional credentials data;

22 (2) a uniform health care recredentials form that  
23 shall include the credentials data commonly requested by  
24 health care entities and health care plans for purposes of  
25 recredentialing and shall minimize the need for the

1 collection of additional credentials data;

2 (3) a uniform hospital credentials form that shall  
3 include the credentials data commonly requested by  
4 hospitals for purposes of credentialing and shall minimize  
5 the need for the collection of additional credentials  
6 data;

7 (4) a uniform hospital recredentials form that shall  
8 include the credentials data commonly requested by  
9 hospitals for purposes of recredentialing and shall  
10 minimize the need for collection of additional credentials  
11 data; and

12 (5) uniform updating forms.

13 The forms described in this subsection may be prescribed  
14 in a print format, electronic format, or both as provided by  
15 the Department.

16 (b) The uniform forms established by the Department under  
17 this Section ~~in subsection (a)~~ shall be coordinated to reduce  
18 the need to provide redundant information. Further, the forms  
19 shall be made available in both paper and electronic formats  
20 upon request and in the format requested.

21 (c) The Department, ~~in consultation with the council,~~  
22 shall establish by rule a process for the submittal of forms in  
23 an a date after which an electronic format with required  
24 content for ~~may be required by~~ a health care entity, a health  
25 care plan, or a hospital, and a health care professional may  
26 require acceptance of forms in an electronic format by a

1 health care entity, a health care plan, or a hospital.

2 (d) Beginning January 1, 2002, each health care entity or  
3 health care plan that employs, contracts with, or allows  
4 health care professionals to provide medical or health care  
5 services and requires health care professionals to be  
6 credentialed or recertified shall for purposes of  
7 collecting credentials data only require:

8 (1) the uniform health care credentials form;

9 (2) the uniform health care recertifications form;

10 (3) the uniform updating forms; ~~and~~

11 (4) any additional credentials data requested; ~~and-~~

12 (5) an online credential with required content as  
13 required by forms under this Section.

14 (e) Beginning January 1, 2002, each hospital that employs,  
15 contracts with, or allows health care professionals to provide  
16 medical or health care services and requires health care  
17 professionals to be credentialed or recertified shall for  
18 purposes of collecting credentials data only require:

19 (1) the uniform hospital credentials form;

20 (2) the uniform hospital recertifications form;

21 (3) the uniform updating forms; ~~and~~

22 (4) any additional credentials data requested; ~~and-~~

23 (5) an online credential with required content as  
24 required by forms under this Section.

25 (f) Each health care entity and health care plan shall  
26 complete the process of verifying a health care professional's

1 credentials data in a timely fashion and shall complete the  
2 process of credentialing or recredentialing of the health care  
3 professional within 60 days after submission of all  
4 credentials data and completion of verification of the  
5 credentials data.

6 (g) Each health care professional shall provide any  
7 corrections, updates, and modifications to his or her  
8 credentials data to ensure that all credentials data on the  
9 health care professional remains current. Such corrections,  
10 updates, and modifications shall be provided within 5 business  
11 days for State health care professional license revocation,  
12 federal Drug Enforcement Agency license revocation, Medicare  
13 or Medicaid sanctions, revocation of hospital privileges, any  
14 lapse in professional liability coverage required by a health  
15 care entity, health care plan, or hospital, or conviction of a  
16 felony, and within 45 days for any other change in the  
17 information from the date the health care professional knew of  
18 the change. All updates shall be made on the uniform updating  
19 forms prescribed ~~developed~~ by the Department.

20 (h) Any credentials data collected or obtained by the  
21 health care entity, health care plan, or hospital shall be  
22 confidential, as provided by law, and otherwise may not be  
23 redisclosed without written consent of the health care  
24 professional, except that in any proceeding to challenge  
25 credentialing or recredentialing, or in any judicial review,  
26 the claim of confidentiality shall not be invoked to deny a

1 health care professional, health care entity, health care  
2 plan, or hospital access to or use of credentials data.  
3 Nothing in this Section prevents a health care entity, health  
4 care plan, or hospital from disclosing any credentials data to  
5 its officers, directors, employees, agents, subcontractors,  
6 medical staff members, any committee of the health care  
7 entity, health care plan, or hospital involved in the  
8 credentialing process, or accreditation bodies or licensing  
9 agencies. However, any redisclosure of credentials data  
10 contrary to this Section is prohibited.

11 (i) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict the  
12 right of any health care entity, health care plan or hospital  
13 to request additional information necessary for credentialing  
14 or recredentialing.

15 (j) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict in  
16 any way the authority of any health care entity, health care  
17 plan or hospital to approve, suspend or deny an application  
18 for hospital staff membership, clinical privileges, or managed  
19 care network participation.

20 (k) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit  
21 delegation of credentialing and recredentialing activities as  
22 long as the delegated entity follows the requirements set  
23 forth in this Act.

24 (l) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any  
25 health care entity or health care plan to credential or survey  
26 any health care professional.



1 (m) Nothing in this Act prohibits a hospital from granting  
2 disaster privileges pursuant to the provisions of Section 10.4  
3 of the Hospital Licensing Act. When a hospital grants disaster  
4 privileges pursuant to Section 10.4 of the Hospital Licensing  
5 Act, that hospital is not required to collect credentials data  
6 pursuant to this Act.

7 (Source: P.A. 92-193, eff. 1-1-02; 93-829, eff. 7-28-04.)

8 (410 ILCS 517/20)

9 Sec. 20. Single credentialing cycle.

10 (a) The Department, ~~in consultation with the council,~~  
11 shall by rule establish a single credentialing cycle. The  
12 single credentialing cycle shall be based on a specific  
13 variable or variables. To the extent possible the single  
14 credentialing cycle shall be established to ensure that the  
15 credentials data of all health care professionals in a group  
16 or at a single site are collected during the same time period.  
17 However, nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the  
18 single credentialing cycle to be established to ensure that  
19 the credentials data of all health care professionals in a  
20 group or at a single site are collected during the same time  
21 period.

22 (b) Beginning July 1, 2002, all health care entities and  
23 health care plans shall obtain credentials data on all health  
24 care professionals according to the established single  
25 credentialing cycle.

1           (c) The Department,~~in consultation with the council,~~  
2 shall by rule establish a process to exempt a small or unique  
3 health care entity or small or unique health care plan from the  
4 single credentialing cycle if the health care entity or health  
5 care plan demonstrates to the Department that adherence to the  
6 single credentialing cycle would be an undue hardship for the  
7 health care entity or health care plan.

8           (d) The requirements of this Section shall not apply when  
9 a health care professional submits initial credentials data to  
10 a health care entity or health care plan outside of the  
11 established single credentialing cycle, when a health care  
12 professional's credentials data change substantively, or when  
13 a health care entity or health care plan requires  
14 recredentialing as a result of patient or quality assurance  
15 issues.

16           (Source: P.A. 91-602, eff. 8-16-99; 92-193, eff. 1-1-02.)

17           (410 ILCS 517/25)

18           Sec. 25. Single site survey.

19           (a) The Department,~~in consultation with the council,~~  
20 shall by rule establish a uniform site survey instrument  
21 taking into account national accreditation standards and State  
22 requirements. The uniform site survey instrument shall include  
23 all the site survey data requested by health care entities and  
24 health care plans.

25           (b) No later than July 1, 2002, the Department,~~in~~

1 ~~consultation with the council,~~ shall publish, in rule, the  
2 variable or variables for completing the single site survey.  
3 To the extent possible, the single site survey shall be  
4 established to ensure that all health care professionals in a  
5 group or at a site are reviewed during the same time period.

6 (c) Beginning January 1, 2003, health care entities and  
7 health care plans shall implement the single site survey, if a  
8 site survey is required by any of the health care  
9 professional's health care entities or health care plans. The  
10 site survey shall be completed using the uniform site survey  
11 instrument.

12 (d) The uniform site survey instrument shall be used when  
13 a health care professional seeks initial credentialing by a  
14 health care entity or health care plan, when a health care  
15 professional's credentials data change substantively, or when  
16 a health care plan or health care entity requires a site survey  
17 as a result of patient or quality assurance issues, if a site  
18 survey is required by the health care entity or health care  
19 plan.

20 (e) Nothing in this Section prohibits health care entities  
21 and health care plans from choosing the independent party to  
22 conduct the single site survey.

23 (Source: P.A. 91-602, eff. 8-16-99; 92-193, eff. 1-1-02.)

24 (410 ILCS 517/30)

25 Sec. 30. Study of coordinated credentials verification.

1 (a) The Department, ~~in consultation with the council,~~  
2 shall study the need for coordinated credentials data  
3 verification.

4 (b) The study shall address the need for, the advantages  
5 and disadvantages of, and the costs and cost savings, if any,  
6 of coordinated credentials verification.

7 (c) The study also may address other changes to improve  
8 the credentialing and recredentialing processes, to improve  
9 the timeliness of the credentials data, and reduce the costs,  
10 time, and administrative burden associated with the processes.

11 (d) The Department shall make a recommendation to the  
12 General Assembly and the Governor regarding the need for  
13 further legislation no later than January 1, 2003.

14 (Source: P.A. 91-602, eff. 8-16-99.)

15 (410 ILCS 517/35)

16 Sec. 35. Rules. The Department, ~~in consultation with the~~  
17 ~~council,~~ shall adopt rules necessary to develop and implement  
18 and enforce the requirements established by this Act.

19 (Source: P.A. 91-602, eff. 8-16-99.)

20 (410 ILCS 517/10 rep.)

21 Section 10. The Health Care Professional Credentials Data  
22 Collection Act is amended by repealing Section 10.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.