



Breaking Down Barriers in Healthcare Credentialing:

Exploring Innovative Approaches





Abstract

Credentialing has become increasingly complex in healthcare, with a growing number of regulations, requirements, and processes to manage. The result has been a delayed onboarding process and a lack of transparency, both of which have decreased credentialing and other efficiencies and made patient care less effective. The paper proposes several innovative approaches to medical credentialing which are breaking the barriers down with technology intervention and process optimization.

The paper proposes innovative approaches to medical credentialing which include utilizing blockchain technology, incorporating Automated Credentialing Systems (ACS), implementing Electronic Verification Systems (EVS), and developing a standardized framework for credentialing. Adoption of these modern means of credentialing can improve the accuracy and security of credentialing processes and ultimately create a more efficient and effective system. The adoption of these inventive means of credentialing as explained in the paper can bring providers access to new markets more quickly.



Introduction

The process of credentialing entails assessing and verifying the qualifications and competency of healthcare providers before they are available for hire. Healthcare credentialing ensures that providers are qualified and trained to offer care to patients. In addition, it validates the experience, education, and background of the provider. As a final benefit, it ensures that healthcare providers are licensed and insured.

The medical credentialing process typically involves verifying the provider's education, training, and other qualifications, as well as their criminal history, malpractice history, and professional references. The process also includes a review of the provider's licensing status, current and past memberships in professional societies, and adherence to a code of ethical standards. Once complete, the provider is granted medical credentialing.

Background

The process of credentialing has become increasingly complex in recent years. In the United States, the process is regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission, which sets standards for healthcare organizations and providers. In addition, there are a growing number of state laws, regulations, and requirements to manage, as well as a variety of different processes and systems that must be followed.

The complexity of the process has led to delays in onboarding, a lack of transparency, and decreased efficiency. This has a direct impact on patient care, as providers are unable to start practicing until they have completed the credentialing process. It also has an indirect impact, as healthcare organizations are unable to access the data they need to make informed decisions about their providers.



Innovative Approaches to Healthcare Credentialing

In order to address the challenges posed by credentialing in healthcare, several innovative approaches have been proposed. These approaches are based on the latest advances in technology and are designed to reduce delays, increase transparency, and improve efficiency.

01

Centralized Credentialing Platform

An efficient and streamlined method of credentialing and re-credentialing providers can be achieved with the integration of a Centralized Credentialing Platform (CCP) into medical credentialing. Centralized platforms simplify paperwork for healthcare organizations, cutting time, costs, and other nuisances. This also ensures that the information is secure and accessible to all stakeholders, while also improving accuracy and compliance.

As it appears from the statistics, CCPs are a growing trend in healthcare, and the statistics show that they are becoming increasingly popular. According to research, these platforms can help healthcare organizations save up to 30% of their time and cost associated with credentialing. Moreover, they can help reduce errors and improve efficiency, leading to streamlined medical accreditation.

02

Utilizing Automated Credentialing Systems

Automated Credentialing Systems (ACSs) are used in healthcare to streamline the credentialing and privileging process. This system enables providers to quickly and efficiently complete the credentialing process, helping reduce the time and cost associated with manual credentialing. Additionally, it can improve the accuracy and reliability of data and records, ensuring that providers submit up-to-date and accurate information.

Automated systems can be used to quickly validate credentials and eliminate manual entry of data, resulting in improved accuracy and efficiency. By automating the credentialing process, physicians are able to save approximately \$29,000 annually as well as 3 hours that are normally spent filling out the credentialing information. With automated credentialing, the process can be simplified, administration costs can be reduced, and providers can be onboarded more quickly.

03

Implementing Electronic Verification Systems

Electronic verification systems (EVS) allow providers to quickly and securely submit their credentials. 96% of non-federal acute care hospitals and 78% of office-based physicians adopted EVS for efficient credentialing as of 2021, a report says. Healthcare practitioners have embraced EVS as it eliminates the need for manual processing of paper-based credentialing, thereby improving accuracy, reducing delays, and minimizing administrative expenses.

Implementing EVS involves a series of steps, such as identifying and authenticating a provider, verifying his medical credentials, and providing secure access to application resources for credentialing. Since credentialing through EVS requires the use of secure hardware and software, as well as adherence to policies and procedures, most providers prefer to get it done by a medical credentialing expert.

04

Digital Badges

Digital badges provide an accessible and cost-effective way to recognize achievements that can be easily shared online. Putting it in a nutshell, they are a digital representation of a professional's skills and competencies. An IMS Credential Engine survey revealed that more than 43 million digital badges had been issued by 2020. This has led to digital badges becoming increasingly important for recognizing skills and verifying accomplishments.

Digital badges can be earned by completing courses or exams, and are quickly gaining recognition among healthcare professionals as a secure and verifiable way to authenticate their clinical expertise and skills. They are portable and can be shared on social media and professional networks, making them an effective way for providers to showcase their professional skills and achievements in clinical practice.

05

Outsourcing Medical Credentialing to an Expert

Outsourcing medical credentialing to an expert can be a cost-effective and efficient way to manage the process. It eliminates the need for in-house staff, allowing healthcare providers to focus on providing quality patient care. An expert can also provide valuable insight on how to improve credentialing processes, as well as provide support for any changes that need to be made. Additionally, the expert can ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

A recent Merritt Hawkins survey reveals that even a one-day delay in provider onboarding can cost a healthcare group \$10122. It is therefore crucial that an outsourced medical credentialing expert be engaged in the onboarding process to ensure providers are enrolled quickly and efficiently. An effective onboarding process can save medical organizations money and time by streamlining the onboarding process. Moreover, healthcare organizations can reduce the risks associated with their medical credentialing processes by outsourcing the work to an expert proficient in handling it.

06

Incorporating Blockchain into Credentialing

Blockchain technology can be used to create secure and tamper-proof digital records of a professional's credentials. Incorporating Blockchain into medical credentialing can simplify the credentialing process as well as provide a secure platform for sharing sensitive information. Blockchain technology enables the secure exchange of digital assets and can be used to securely store and transfer medical records, while also providing a reliable authentication system.

By ensuring that providers' data is held to the highest standards of privacy and security, a blockchain-based credentialing system can secure accreditation. There were 505 healthcare data breaches in 2019, exposing, stealing, or illegally disclosing 41.2 million records. A recent IBM report also indicates that healthcare data breaches have increased in cost to \$9.3 million per occurrence, confirming the importance of Blockchain in medical credentialing.

07

Competency-Based Credentialing

Competency-Based medical credentialing is an approach to medical credentialing that focuses on assessing a medical practitioner's knowledge and skills rather than their educational qualifications or experience. Medical practitioners can use this approach in order to demonstrate their capabilities and expertise, helping to ensure that they are capable of providing the highest quality care to their patients and are qualified for medical credentialing.

A majority of estimates state that between 15% and 20% of doctors in the United States are not board-certified. A competency-based credentialing system evaluates doctors' qualifications and expertise, allowing them to obtain board certification as healthcare practitioners and improve their professional standing. It allows them to be recognized as certified practitioners by medical boards with better chances to be eligible for medical credentialing.

08

Performance-Based Medical Credentialing

There is a growing trend among payers to administer performance-based assessments as a new approach to medical credentialing, and all insurers have adopted this method for accrediting medical professionals. A general description of the process involves the assessment of knowledge and skills of professionals within the healthcare domain in addition to evaluating the ability of a healthcare provider to practice safely, effectively, and ethically within the field.

The medical field is increasingly utilizing performance-based assessment for credentialing. A recent study has found that 94% of healthcare providers believe that performance-based assessment is beneficial for credentialing physicians. Furthermore, 79% of healthcare organizations claim that performance-based assessments are accurate in evaluating physicians' clinical skills, which confirms their efficacy in assessing physicians' clinical competence and their eligibility for medical credentialing.

09

Micro-Credentialing

Micro-credentialing is an alternate pathway of demonstrating proficiency and expertise in clinical practice for successful medical credentialing. It allows medical professionals to acquire and demonstrate technical skills quickly and efficiently. Micro-credentialing is revolutionizing medical credentialing as it allows medical professionals to demonstrate their skills more quickly, leading to quicker credentialing approval by payers.

As an emerging trend in medical credentialing, micro-credentialing recognizes medical professionals' skills and knowledge through short-term, specialized training. 87% of American physicians are board certified and are required to renew their certificates every 6 to 10 years. In such a case, high scores earned during medical training can boost a medical professional's career prospects and chances of successful credentialing.

10

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for medical credentialing is a vital component for medical professionals. CPD activities can include attending conferences, completing online courses, or taking part in educational programs. It is important for physicians to stay up-to-date with current practices and treatments, and CPD helps ensure that standards of care are met.

Credentialing for medical providers serves to establish credibility in the marketplace and CPD is a new tool that payers and providers are beginning to adopt. According to the American Medical Association, physicians must earn a minimum of 150 hours of CPD every three years to maintain their credentials. The chances of medical professionals achieving medical credentialing success increase significantly with professional development.

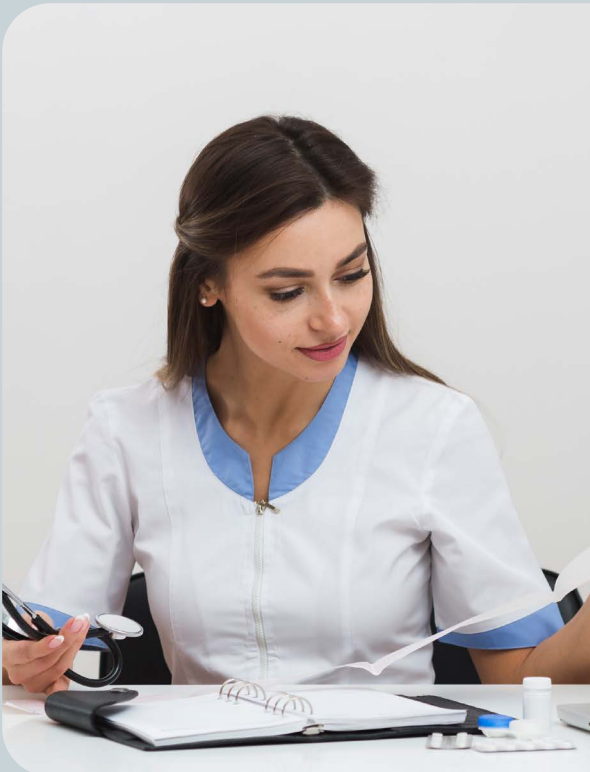
A Quick Insight

By utilizing these approaches, the credentialing process could be significantly improved and challenges associated with the current outdated and inefficient credentialing system could be reduced. The adoption of a centralized platform and an automated process could reduce delays, increase transparency, and improve efficiency in medical credentialing.



Conclusion

The credentialing process in the healthcare sector has become increasingly complex over the years, resulting in delays in communication, and decreased efficiency as a result. The intent of this paper was to present an analysis of innovative approaches to medical credentialing as well as to identify how their adoption in healthcare will be able to break down the barriers, eliminating the intricacies of the credentialing process.



Capline: Your Key to Effortless Medical Credentialing

Our team at Capline provides a comprehensive solution that helps you streamline and automate the entire medical credentialing process. We specialize in credentialing services, including primary source verification, credentialing applications, and re-credentialing. Our services are designed to help you save time and money while ensuring that you are compliant with all of the necessary regulations. While experts handle the complex credentialing processes, you can focus on providing quality care to your patients and growing your practice.



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