



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, D.C. 20534

September 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Jeffery D. Allen, M.D.

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FROM: M. D. Smith, Assistant Director
for Health Services Division

SUBJECT: Waiver to Health Services policy

This is a national policy waiver request to Health Services policies due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

P6027.02 Health Care Provider Credential Verification, Privileges, and Practice Agreement Program Policy states:

3. GRANTING OF CLINICAL PRIVILEGES, PRACTICE AGREEMENTS, AND PROTOCOLS Only LIPs will apply for, and be granted, clinical privileges in the Bureau. All physicians, dentists, and other LIPs, including contract/consultants, and those who provide a diagnosis or recommend treatment using telehealth, must have approved clinical privileges before delivering health care inside the institution, or by use of telehealth.

4. PEER REVIEW Peer review is a routine function used to review the current knowledge and skills of health care providers. All Bureau health care providers who are privileged must have at least one external peer review conducted every two years. The contract LIPs who are working with privileges must have at least one external peer review conducted every two years. Those who are working under a practice agreement must have at least one routine peer review conducted every two years, which may be conducted by a peer at the institution.

The BOP Office of Quality Management (OQM) accepts the completion of the MLP/RN Clinical Skills Training program to meet the requirements of this peer review.

Response to requests for policy waiver

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and burden of the required medical response, the following requests for waiver are granted:

- All due dates for 2-year peer reviews due in the next 12 months may be postponed for up to 6 months beyond the 2-year due date, not to exceed September 30, 2021.
- For providers that were already providing care to inmates at an outside healthcare facility but are now providing telehealth/WebEx services, completion of clinical privileges is not required for the duration of this waiver.

A national policy waiver is granted to extend time frame requirements as listed above and is effective through September 30, 2021.

cc: Ken Hyle, Assistant Director/General Counsel, OGC
Louis Milusnic, Assistant Director, PRD

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Jeffery D. Allen, Medical Director, HSD

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Regional Medical Directors
Regional Health Services Administrators
Medical Asset Support Team Members
HSD Branch Chiefs
HSD Chief Professional Officers