

Physicians spoke. We listened. It's here.  
Universal Credentialing DataSource from CA



*"This service will bring  
welcome administrative  
relief to my staff and me,  
which will translate  
into enhanced care for  
our patients."*

**LOUISE MCDONALD, M.D.**

President of the Colorado  
Medical Society

# About Universal Credentialing DataSource

The process of submitting credentialing information can be a time-consuming administrative task for physicians and their office staffs. It is not uncommon for a physician to contract with 10 or more individual healthcare organizations, each of which requires a lengthy credentialing application. Now there's a better way with Universal Credentialing DataSource. This innovative service from the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare streamlines this process by allowing physicians to submit their credentials only once, with periodic updates, to satisfy the credentialing requirements of all participating healthcare organizations.

## Universal Credentialing DataSource enables physicians and other providers to:

Submit information only once, either online or by fax, and specify organizations that may receive the data

Easily update information at any time

Confirm on a quarterly basis that the information on file is complete and accurate

Be confident that credentialing data is secure and available only with their authorization

## Healthcare organizations are:

Automatically notified when physician or provider information changes

Allowed to access the credentialing information at any time, with provider authorization

In control of data verification and review

Responsible for deciding whether a provider meets that organization's standards for participation

## A solution whose time has come

A common complaint among physicians and other providers is the enormous amount of paperwork that goes along with the practice of medicine. The current credentialing process requires physicians to complete a lengthy application for each of the healthcare organizations with which they contract. With Universal Credentialing DataSource, physicians submit their information only once into a uniform system that satisfies the credentialing requirements of all participating healthcare organizations. Information can be submitted either via the Web – completely paper free – or by fax. Updates are collected on a quarterly basis to ensure that data remains current. Healthcare organizations can use this data in other important ways, such as to ensure that provider contact information is always up-to-date for their electronic and paper directories.

## CAQH listened to its partners in the healthcare industry

CAQH worked closely with health plans and networks, physicians, professional associations, insurance regulators and accreditation organizations to develop a credentialing submission process that meets everyone's needs. CAQH reviewed more than 40 different credentialing forms including health plan applications, standard forms adopted for use in different states and other uniform applications used in the industry. A single process was developed and rigorously field-tested to make certain it worked as well in practice as it did in theory. It incorporates a broad range of data used in the credentialing review process, as well as other essential practice data for use in directories. It also includes a standard set of disclosure questions, an authorization, a release statement,

and, where applicable, data elements required by individual state regulations.

## Security, backed by the very latest technology

CAQH collects, maintains and secures all data in a state-of-the-art data center. Confidentiality and security of provider information are priorities for CAQH, so significant security measures are in place to protect the information. Only healthcare organizations authorized by a physician can access the data.

## No cost to healthcare providers

There is no cost to physicians and other providers to submit their information, or provide updates after it is submitted. Participating healthcare organizations pay an annual per physician/provider fee for unlimited access to completed records, in addition to a small annual administrative fee to offset system maintenance and customer service requirements.

## Participation is open to all

In addition to CAQH members, healthcare organizations with credentialing requirements can, and are encouraged to participate in Universal Credentialing DataSource.

1129 20TH STREET, NW  
SUITE 600  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
202 861-1492

[www.caqh.org](http://www.caqh.org)

**CAQH** COUNCIL FOR  
AFFORDABLE  
QUALITY  
HEALTHCARE  
*a catalyst for positive change*