



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Registration in Medicine

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(617) 727-3086

DINESH PATEL, M.D.
CHAIRMAN

ALEXANDER F. FLEMING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An Agency within the Executive Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

November 25, 1992

Dear Health Care Administrator:

During the past year, several health care facility administrators have asked the Board of Registration in Medicine whether it is permissible for a facility to contract with an independent consultant or entity to assist in the credentialing and recredentialing of physicians under the Board's Patient Care Assessment regulations, 243 CMR 3.00.

The Board recognizes that health care facilities may find it advantageous to contract with another entity to gather the necessary documentation for the credentialing and recredentialing processes. The Board finds such arrangements permissible as long as credentialing assessments and decisions are made by the health care facility.

Under the Board's regulations, a health care facility may delegate the task of gathering documents, records, and references necessary for credentialing decisions to another entity. That entity serves as an agent of the health care facility for the purpose of collecting the documents. Therefore, any currently applicable confidentiality protections afforded to the credentialing information under M.G.L. ch. 111, sections 204 and 205 and 243 CMR 2.04 remain in place. A facility, however, cannot delegate the review and assessment of such documents to an agent. The facility is responsible for both the review and assessment of such documentation and for making decisions whether to hire, retain, grant new or renewed clinical privileges, or staff membership to physicians.

It should be pointed out that the Board cannot endorse any particular service, individual, or entity to assist health care facilities in gathering necessary documentation. Should you have questions about credentialing or recredentialing, please direct them to Rebecca Lockwood, Director of Patient Care Assessment, at (617) 727-3086, ext. 368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander F. Fleming".

Alexander F. Fleming
Executive Director