
Allied Health Professional Manual



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Approved by the Board of Trustees of Baylor Specialty Health Centers

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Dallas, Texas 75204

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Section 1.0 AUTHORIZATION AND CONTROL PROVISIONS

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1. ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (AHP)

a. An Allied Health Professional (AHP) as defined herein is an individual who:

- (1) Is qualified by academic and clinical training, prior and continuing experience, and current competence in a discipline which the Hospital's Board of Trustees allows to practice in the Hospital; and
- (2) Functions under the direction and supervision or delegation of a Medical Staff member.

b. Categories of AHP's currently authorized to provide services in the Hospital include:

- (1) Advanced Practice Nurse
- (2) Physician Assistant (PA)

1.1.2. Delegating Medical Staff Member shall be the Medical Staff member(s) required to delegate the performance of medical acts, supervise or direct the AHP by virtue of law, Hospital policy or the terms of the AHP's authorization to practice in the Hospital. A delegating Medical Staff member shall not supervise/delegate any procedure or patient care service that the member is not privileged by the Hospital to perform.

1.2 Medical Executive Committee

The Baylor Specialty Health Centers (BSHC) Medical Executive Committee (MEC) will assume the function as a medical peer review committee and is authorized by the BSHC Board of Trustees to evaluate the quality of health care services provided by AHPs, including the evaluation of AHPs initial and renewal of credentialing of AHPs, and evaluation of complaints.

1.3 Basic Qualifications of Allied Health Professionals

Every AHP must, at the time of initial application and, if approved, continuously thereafter, demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Hospital the following qualifications and any additional qualifications as set forth for the AHP's discipline:

1.3.1. Professional Education/Training/Licensure/Certification/Registration:

- a. Advanced Practice Nurse: Current and unrestricted Texas license or temporary authorization to practice as issued by the Texas State Board of Nurse Examiners to practice as an advanced practice nurse. For new graduates on or after 1/1/96, the graduate advanced practice nurse must achieve certification within three examinations in the first 2 years from becoming eligible.
- b. Physician Assistant: Current and unrestricted Texas license or provisional license issued by the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners.

1.3.2. Experience and Professional Performance: Current clinical competency through experience and results, documenting the ability to provide patient care services at an acceptable level of quality and efficacy in each Hospital setting where services are or will be provided.

1.3.3. Cooperativeness: Ability to work with and relate to Medical Staff members, other AHP's, Hospital personnel, patients, visitors, and the community in general, in a cooperative, professional, non-disruptive manner that is essential for maintaining an environment appropriate to quality and effective patient care.

1.3.4. Satisfaction of Obligations: Satisfactory compliance with the obligations outlined in Section 1.6 of this manual.

1.3.5. Professional Ethics and Conduct: Adherence to generally recognized standards of professional ethics and all applicable laws.

1.3.6. Health Status: Health status as necessary to provide services in the Hospital and fulfill the essential functions of AHP status. In demonstrating satisfaction of the foregoing qualification, an AHP may be

required to provide such information or to submit to such examinations or tests as may be reasonably requested by the appropriate governing committees. Such examinations or tests shall be at the AHP's expense and performed by practitioners chosen or acceptable to the appropriate governing committees.

- 1.3.7. Verbal and Written Communication Skills: Ability to communicate orally and in writing, in English, in an intelligible manner, and to prepare medical record entries and other required documentation in a legible manner.
- 1.3.8. Professional Liability Insurance: Possess professional liability insurance coverage issued by a recognized company and of a type and in an amount not less than the minimum amount required by the Hospital, or be a named insured in a professional liability insurance policy issued by a recognized company and of a type and amount required by the Hospital and that does not exclude from coverage any of the scope of practice or delineation of services that the AHP is granted. Written evidence of such insurance coverage, in a form satisfactory to the Hospital, shall be provided to the Hospital upon request.
- 1.3.9. Delegating Medical Staff Member: Agreement by one or more Medical Staff members to provide required delegation, supervision or direction to the AHP.

1.4 Effects of Other Affiliations

An AHP is not automatically entitled to provide services merely because the AHP:

- 1.4.1. Is authorized to practice in this or in any other state; or
- 1.4.2. Is a member of any professional organization; or
- 1.4.3. Is certified by any board; or
- 1.4.4. Provides, or previously provided, services at this Hospital or another health care facility or in another practice setting; or
- 1.4.5. Is or was employed at this Hospital; or
- 1.4.6. Is, or is about to become, associated with a Medical Staff member(s) or AHP(s) practicing at the Hospital through employment, contract, or otherwise.

1.5 Prerogatives of Allied Health Professionals

The prerogatives of an AHP are to:

- 1.5.1. Perform such health care services as the AHP has been educated and trained to perform and as have been specifically defined for the AHP under the degree of supervision, direction or delegation of Medical Staff member as stated in the authorization to provide services and consistent with any limitations stated in the policies governing the AHP's practice in the Hospital or any other applicable Medical Staff or Hospital policies in accordance with Board licensure or certification requirements;
- 1.5.2. Serve on committees if so appointed and with a vote if so specified by the appointing authority;
- 1.5.3. Attend, when invited, clinical meetings of the Medical Staff, a department or other clinical units;
- 1.5.4. Attend educational meetings of the Medical Staff, a department, or the Hospital; and
- 1.5.5. Exercise such other prerogatives as the Board of Trustees or MEC may accord AHP's in general or a specific category of AHP.

1.6 Obligation of Allied Health Professionals

Each AHP shall:

- 1.6.1. Provide patient care services at an acceptable level of quality with cost-effective and appropriate utilization of services;
- 1.6.2. Retain appropriate responsibility within the AHP's area of professional competence for the care of each patient in the Hospital for whom the AHP is providing services;
- 1.6.3. Participate in Hospital quality management program activities appropriate to the AHP's discipline and discharge such other functions as may be required from time to time;

- 1.6.4. When requested, attend clinical and educational meetings of the Medical Staff, department, and any clinical units with which the AHP is associated and attend any individual conference requested by the MEC or its chair, any department chair, or medical director of a special unit;
- 1.6.5. Abide by the Medical Staff Bylaws and related manuals, as applicable, this manual, and all other applicable standards, policies and rules of the Medical Staff and Hospital;
- 1.6.6. Prepare and complete in a timely fashion, as appropriate and authorized, those portions of the patients medical records documenting services provided and any other required records, including entering all progress reports in the multi-disciplinary progress record;
- 1.6.7. Provide evidence to the Medical Staff Services, prior to expiration, of renewed license/certificate to practice in this state, required professional liability insurance coverage, as well as any other required documentation requested;
- 1.6.8. Immediately notify the Medical Staff Services and Hospital of:
 - a. Any felony charges brought against the AHP;
 - b. Any change made or investigation involving the AHP's license/certificate/registration to practice, professional liability insurance coverage, employment by or other affiliation with a delegating Medical Staff member;
 - c. Any change made or investigation at another hospital or health care entity where the AHP practices;
 - d. Any initiation, judgment, settlement, or dismissal of a claim involving the AHP's professional performance or services; and
 - e. Any investigation or action by Medicare or Medicaid.
- 1.6.9. Refrain from any conduct or acts that are or could reasonably be interpreted as being beyond, or an attempt to exceed, the scope of practice authorized within the Hospital.
- 1.6.10 Inform patients and their families that the AHP is not a physician and refrain from any conduct or language that could lead patients and their families to believe that the AHP is a physician.

Failure to satisfy any of these obligations is grounds for termination or non-renewal of the authorization to provide services or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate under Section 4.0 of this manual.

1.7 Terms and Conditions of Affiliation

The AHP is subject to an initial probationary period, formal periodic reviews and disciplinary procedures as set forth in Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of this manual. Each AHP shall be assigned by the MEC to the clinical department appropriate to the AHP's professional training and authorized scope of practice. An AHP's provision of specified services within any department is subject to the rules and regulations of that department and to the authority of its chair/director. The quality and efficacy of the care provided by an AHP within any department may be monitored and reviewed as part of the Hospital's quality management program.

1.8 Scope of Practice

- 1.8.1. Delineation: Written guidelines defining the scope of services that may be provided by each category of AHP shall be developed by the MEC and either approved, modified or rejected, after approval by the Board of Trustees. Input shall be obtained, as applicable, from the delegating Medical Staff member(s) and from representatives of the Medical Staff, Hospital administration and other professional staffs.

For each category of AHP, the guidelines shall include at least:

- a. Specification of the classes of patients that may (or may not) be seen;
- b. Description of the services to be provided and procedures to be performed, including any special equipment, procedures of protocols that specific tasks may involve, and responsibility (if any) for charting services provided in the patients medical record;
- c. Definition of the degree of assistance that may be provided to a Medical Staff member in the treating of patients on Hospital premises and any limitations thereon;

- d. The degree of Medical Staff member supervision, direction or delegation required for providing services (as outlined in 1.8.2) and;
 - e. Minimum or threshold qualifications to apply for these services.
- 1.8.2. Medical Staff Member Supervision: The nature of supervision required from the delegating Medical Staff member(s) for the AHP's performance of a service shall be within the privileges that the Medical Staff member has been granted to perform by the Hospital and shall be delineated as the
- a. Medical Staff member is available by telephone immediately while the service or task is being performed.
- 1.8.3. Limitations: Notwithstanding the apparent scope of practice permitted to any particular category of AHP or any individual AHP under state law or licensure, limitations may be placed on an AHP's authorized scope of practice in the Hospital as deemed necessary either for the efficient and effective operation of the Hospital or any of its departments, or for management of personnel, services and equipment, or for quality or effective patient care, or as otherwise deemed by the Board of Trustees to be in the best interest of patient care in the Hospital.
- 1.8.4. Emergency: In case of an emergency in which serious permanent harm or aggravation of injury or disease is imminent, or in which the life of a patient is in immediate danger, and any delay in administering treatment could add to that danger, an AHP is authorized to do everything possible to save the patient's life or to save the patient from serious harm, to the degree permitted by the AHP's license or certificate regardless of the authorized scope of services. In such an emergency, the AHP shall summon all consultative assistance available and to relinquish care of the patient to a Medical Staff member or other appropriate professional as soon as possible.

1.9 Delegating Medical Staff Members Obligations

Unless otherwise provided by law, Hospital policy or the authorization for a particular AHP or AHP category, the delegating Medical Staff member(s) by virtue of the member's status as such, agrees to:

- 1.9.1. Accept full legal and ethical responsibility for directing or supervising the AHP's performance;
- 1.9.2. Accept full responsibility for the proper conduct of the AHP within the Hospital, for the AHP's observance of all Bylaws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the Hospital and Medical Staff, and for the correction and resolution of any problems that may arise;
- 1.9.3. Provide the level of supervision as set forth in the authorization to provide services;
- 1.9.4. Maintain ultimate responsibility for directing the course of the patient's medical treatment and provide active and continuous overview of the AHP's activities in the Hospital to ensure that directions and advice are being implemented;
- 1.9.5. Assure that the AHP maintains the necessary qualifications and competency to provide services in accordance with accepted medical standards;
- 1.9.6. Delegate the performance of any medical acts in accordance with applicable law and within the AHP's scope of practice as determined by the MEC;
- 1.9.7. Abide by all Bylaws, policies and rules governing the use of AHP's in this Hospital and utilize the AHP in accordance with the AHP's authorized scope of practice in the Hospital;
- 1.9.8. Assure the AHP has valid and current professional liability coverage as required in Section 1.3.8;
- 1.9.9. Immediately notify the MEC and Hospital in the event any of the following occurs:
 - a. Termination of an agreement to serve as a delegating Medical Staff member or employment of the AHP;
 - b. The Medical Staff member's approval to supervise the AHP is revoked, limited, or otherwise altered by action of the applicable state licensing board or any other entity; or
 - c. The Medical Staff member is notified of investigation of the AHP or of the member's supervision of the AHP by the applicable state licensing board or any other entity.
- 1.9.10. Be specifically privileged to supervise AHP's by the MEC.

1.10 Identification

At all times while on Hospital premises, the AHP shall wear a name tag clearly identifying the AHP by name, the AHP's employer, and the category the AHP is in, as set forth in the authorization to provide services. The AHP shall inform patients and their families that the AHP is not a physician and shall refrain from any conduct or language that could lead patients and their families to believe that the AHP is a physician.

Section 2.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

2.1 Application

An application for specified services must be submitted by the AHP in writing, signed and completed on an original Hospital approved form. Applications shall only be provided to individuals in an AHP category approved by the Board of Trustees. The Hospital may decline in its sole discretion to provide an application or to process an application based on its inability to provide adequate facilities, resources or support services for additional AHP's in a particular category, lack of need for additional AHP's, or the existence of a contractual or other arrangement for the provision of the services offered by that category of AHP. An AHP who enters into a contract with the Hospital shall be subject to the qualifications and application procedures in this manual, in addition to any additional requirements set forth in the contract.

2.2 Content of Form

The application shall require complete and accurate information containing at a minimum:

- 2.2.1. Personal Information: Full name, social security number, addresses and telephone numbers for office, and travel time from office and residence;
- 2.2.2. Delegating Medical Staff Member Information: Name of the Medical Staff member/group who employs the AHP, if applicable, and/or the names of the delegating Medical Staff member(s) under whose direction and supervision the AHP will function;
- 2.2.3. Education: School name and location, major, degrees awarded and dates attended for all undergraduate and/or professional/other graduate schools;
- 2.2.4. Postgraduate/Continuing Education: Institution/school name and location, title and summary description of content of program, program director, dates attended, date completed;
- 2.2.5. Professional Licenses/Registration/Certifications: Type, state where held (if applicable), number, whether current or not, date of certification by the professional college or board where applicable (e.g., National Commission of Registration of Physician Assistants), copy of current or temporary license/registration/certification to practice in this state, and copy of current professional college/board certificate (if applicable);
- 2.2.6. Chronology of Professional Career (all present and prior): Date, name and location of each hospital affiliation, other institutional practice affiliations, employment with solo/group/partnership practice, to include experience at each;
- 2.2.7. Professional Society Memberships: Name, both current and pending;
- 2.2.8. Disciplinary Actions: Any pending or completed denials, revocations, suspensions, reductions, limitations, probations, non-renewals, voluntary relinquishments of or withdrawals of an application or investigations for any of the following: professional license/registration/certification, hospital or other institutional practice affiliation, authority to provide services, professional society membership, professional liability insurance, or Medicare/Medicaid provider status, with full details of any affirmative answers provided in the form requested;
- 2.2.9. Professional Liability Insurance: Current coverage amount with documentation, listing of any claims, suits, settlements or arbitration proceedings pending or concluded, and names of past insurance carriers with dates of coverage. Professional Liability Insurance shall not be less than the minimum amount required by the Hospital;
- 2.2.10. Health Status: Information on health status as necessary to provide professional services and fulfill the essential obligations of AHP status;

- 2.2.11. Criminal Charges: Listing of every current or past charge, date and resolution involving any felony criminal matter;
- 2.2.12. Authorization and Release: Signed authorization and release from AHP applicable to consideration of the AHP's application to practice in the Hospital and obtaining information from third-parties;
- 2.2.13. Acknowledgment: Signed acknowledgment from AHP to abide by the applicable Bylaws and related manuals, rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Medical Staff and Hospital in all matters relating to the AHP's practice in the Hospital;
- 2.2.14. Acknowledgment from Delegating Medical Staff Member: Signed agreement from all delegating Medical Staff member(s) acknowledging the obligation to comply with all requirements of this manual, including Section 1.9, as well as all obligations required by the Hospital and all applicable departments thereof, and as may otherwise be necessary for the particular category of AHP or individual AHP;
- 2.2.15. References: The names of least 3 Medical Staff members or other health care professionals who have personal knowledge of the AHP's qualifications based on observation within the past three years of the AHP's professional performance over a reasonable period of time (preferably in the acute care hospital setting) and who will provide specific written comments on these matters upon request;
- 2.2.16. A list of all services the AHP seeks to provide patients at the Hospital and the areas of the Hospital where the AHP will be performing duties; and
- 2.2.17. Other: Such other information as may be required by the MEC.

2.3 Effect of Application

The AHP must sign the application and in so doing:

- 2.3.1. Attests to the correctness and completeness of all information furnished and acknowledges that any misstatement or misrepresentation in or omission from the application, whether intentional or not, constitutes grounds for denial or termination of authorization to provide services in the Hospital;
- 2.3.2. Signifies the AHP's agreement to provide any requested information and to appear for interviews in connection with the application;
- 2.3.3. Agrees to abide by the terms of this manual and all applicable Bylaws and related manuals, rules, regulations, policies, and procedure manuals of the Medical Staff and the Hospital;
- 2.3.4. Agrees to maintain an ethical practice and to refrain from misrepresenting the AHP's position, status or scope of authorized practice to any individual;
- 2.3.5. Agrees to promptly notify, in writing the MEC and Hospital of any change in the information provided on the application;
- 2.3.6. Authorizes and consents to the Hospital Representatives consulting with any individuals or entities who may have information bearing on the qualifications and competence of the AHP and consents to the disclosure and inspection of all records and documents that may apply to said qualifications and competence; and
- 2.3.7. Releases from any liability all those who, review, act on or provide information regarding the AHP's qualifications.

For purposes of this section, the term Hospital Representative means: the Board of Trustees and any member of a Board committee thereof; the Hospital or designee; the MEC or any member or agent thereof; the Medical Staff and any member, officer, agent, department or committee thereof; employees of the Hospital; and any individual authorized by any appropriate authority of the Medical Staff or the Hospital or any committee thereof.

2.4 Processing the Application

- 2.4.1. Burden of Proof: The AHP shall have the burden of producing adequate information for a proper evaluation of the AHP's qualifications, resolving any doubts, and satisfying any requests for information or clarification made by appropriate Hospital Representatives.
- 2.4.2. Verification of Information: The AHP shall provide to the Hospital a completed, original application. After collecting and verifying the information submitted, the AHP shall be promptly notified in writing

by the Hospital of any additional information needed or of any problems in obtaining the information required. Upon such notification, it shall be the AHP's obligation to provide the required information. Failure to provide the information by the deadline specified shall terminate any further processing of the application and is deemed a voluntary withdrawal of the application. Failure to document compliance of any minimum or threshold criteria for requested service shall result in non-processing of the application as to that service. When collection and verification are accomplished, the application shall be presented to the MEC.

- 2.4.3. MEC Evaluation: The MEC reviews and investigates the application, the supporting documentation, and any other relevant information available to it. The MEC shall consult with and obtain a recommendation from the applicable department chair. The MEC may, at its sole discretion interview the applicant. The MEC shall take one of the following actions on the application with the effect as described:
 - a. Deferral: If the MEC requires additional information, it may defer transmitting its report and notify the AHP of the deferral. If the AHP is to provide additional information or a specific release/authorization to allow Hospital or MEC representatives to obtain information, the notice must so state and include a request for the specific information or release/authorization required and the deadline for response. Failure to respond in a satisfactory manner by that date shall terminate further processing of the application and is deemed a withdrawal of the application in accord with Section 2.4.2 above.
 - b. Recommendation: A recommendation on the AHP's application is transmitted promptly, with all supporting information, to the MEC as set forth in Section 2.4.4 below. The recommendation shall be one of the following alternatives: 1) grant authorization to practice as an AHP, scope of services to practice, level of delegating Medical Staff members supervision, department assignment, and any conditions on the AHP's practice; or 2) deny authorization to practice as an AHP.
- 2.4.4. MEC Action: At its next regular meeting, the MEC shall make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees whether authorization to practice should be granted and, if so, the approved scope of services, level of delegating Medical Staff member's supervision, department assignment, and any conditions on the AHP's practice. If, in the deliberations pursuant to this Section 2.4.4, the MEC determines that it requires additional information, it may defer action for up to 30 days and the AHP shall be notified of the deferral and the reason. If the AHP is to provide additional information or a specific release/authorization to allow Hospital or MEC Representatives to obtain information, the notice must so state and include a request for the specific information or release/authorization required and the deadline for response. Failure to respond in a satisfactory manner by that date is deemed a withdrawal of the application in accord with Section 2.4.2 above.
- 2.4.5. Board Action: Upon receipt, the Board of Trustees shall issue a final decision on the AHP's application. The Hospital shall notify the AHP and any designated delegating Medical Staff member(s) in writing within 20 days of the Board's decision. If the decision is adverse as defined in Section 5.2, the notice shall also advise the AHP of the right to review as outlined in Section 5.3.

2.5 Orientation of The Allied Health Professionals

The AHP shall complete an orientation program established by the MEC within 90 days after approval by the Board of Trustees. Failure to satisfactorily complete the orientation program may result in termination of practice. The orientation program shall include:

- 2.5.1. Certification in CPR training if the AHP is not already certified, unless exempted based on the nature of the services the AHP is to provide. It is the obligation of the AHP to furnish documentation of such orientation or certification;
- 2.5.2. Familiarization with appropriate procedures and protocols at the Hospital and, as applicable, those of the clinical department and Hospital unit under which the AHP will provide services;
- 2.5.3. Orientation to nursing activities specific to any of the units/departments of the Hospital where the AHP will function;
- 2.5.4. Orientation to medical records requirements;
- 2.5.5. Orientation to policies and procedures on HIPAA and patient confidentiality;

- 2.5.6. Orientation to policies and procedures on Patient Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect; and
- 2.5.7. Orientation to policies and procedures on use of Patient Restraint.

Section 3.0 RE-EVALUATION PROCEDURES

3.1 Probationary Period

Each AHP newly approved for services shall be subject to a probationary period of 12 months. Any granting of additional services to an existing AHP shall also be subject to a probationary period of at least 90 days and no more than 12 months as recommended by the MEC. An AHP's provision of services during the probationary period is subject to any conditions or limitations imposed as part of the grant of services.

- 3.1.1. Application: At least 45 days prior to the end of the probationary period for the new AHP and at least 45 days prior to the end of a probationary period for the AHP who has increased services, the AHP and, when applicable, the delegating Medical Staff member(s) must submit in writing to the MEC a summary of the AHP's practice in the Hospital to date and request termination of the probationary period review process. Failure to utilize the Hospital during the probationary period or to request termination of the probationary period as required shall cause the authorization to provide services to automatically terminate at the end of the probationary period, with no right to review under this manual or otherwise.
- 3.1.2. Medical Directors Review: Upon receipt of a timely request, the MEC shall delegate a portion of its review function by directing that the AHP's file, any significant findings from Hospital quality management activities, and the summary of the AHP's practice be forwarded to each applicable medical director for review.

At least 30 days prior to the end of the probationary period, each applicable medical director shall review the information on the AHP's practice in the Hospital and transmit to the MEC a statement as to whether or not, based on that information, the AHP's clinical performance is acceptable, whether the AHP has complied with the obligations in this manual, and of any incidents that have occurred in connection with the AHP's provision of services that indicate actual or potential problems.

- 3.1.3. Committee Action: The MEC shall review the information on the AHP's practice in the Hospital, the statements under Section 3.1.2 and other information available in the AHP's file, and formulate a recommendation as to whether the probationary period has or has not been successfully completed. The matter then follows the course outlined in Sections 2.4.3 through 2.4.5 above.

3.2 Renewal of Authorization to Practice

The MEC shall accomplish re-evaluation of each AHP every 2 years beginning with the successful conclusion of the probationary period. At least 90 days prior to the AHP's renewal date, the AHP must, on the Hospital-approved form, fully update the information on the application form, including external continuing education activities, and submit a request for authorization to continue to provide services for the upcoming term, including any basis for changes from the services currently authorized. The Hospital for the specific purpose of providing information to the MEC for this re-evaluation, will compile for the AHP's file information regarding the AHP's fulfillment of the obligations in this manual and the frequency, quality and efficacy of services the AHP is providing. Upon receipt of a timely application for re-evaluation, the MEC shall delegate a portion of its review function by directing that the AHP's file, any significant findings from the Hospital quality management activities, and the summary of the AHP's practice be forwarded to each applicable department chair for review. Upon completion of such review, a statement shall be transmitted to the MEC whether or not, based on that information the AHP's clinical performance is acceptable, whether the AHP has met the requirements in this manual, and any incidents that have occurred in connection with the AHP's provision of services that indicate actual or potential problems. Processing is as described in Sections 2.4.3 through 2.4.5 of this manual. Failure to submit a completed renewal application or to supply requested information shall result in termination of the authorization to provide services on the expiration date, with no right to review under this manual or otherwise.

3.3 Requests for Modification of Services

An AHP may, either in connection with renewal or at any other time, seek modification of services by submitting a written request to Medical Staff Services. The request must contain all required information and is processed according to the procedures outlined in Section 2.0 of this manual, including verification with primary sources external to the Hospital and compilation of internal data as necessary to properly evaluate the request.

An AHP, who decides to resign or to restrict or limit the provision of services that the AHP has been granted, shall send written notice to the Hospital, which shall, in turn, notify the applicable department the MEC, and the Board of Trustees. A copy of this notice shall be included in the AHP's file.

3.4 Contracted Services

Upon nonrenewal or termination of an exclusive contract, the Hospital may terminate or otherwise limit or qualify the scope of practice of all AHP's associated with the contract or the group, and such AHP's shall not have a right to a hearing or appeal procedure. Further, upon any severance of the affiliation between an AHP and a group, the Hospital may terminate or otherwise limit or qualify the scope of practice of that AHP, and such AHP shall not have a right to a hearing or appeal procedure. The rights of the Hospital under this Section shall supercede any contrary terms as may be established in the bylaws, rules or regulations, or policies of the Hospital's medical staff.

3.5 Quality Management

Evaluation of the practice of AHP's and compliance with any conditions on such practice, shall be included as an element of the Hospital's quality management program and the results of such evaluations shall be provided to the MEC prior to renewal of the AHP's scope of practice.

Section 4.0 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

4.1 Routine Action

An AHP's authority to practice may be terminated if the AHP: fails to satisfy the basic qualifications for authority to practice or obligations of AHP, fails to comply with the conditions placed on the AHP's practice, violates this manual or any Medical Staff, Hospital, or department requirement, fails to provide services in accordance with accepted professional standards, or takes any action that jeopardizes patient care or Hospital operations.

- 4.1.1. **Initiation:** The MEC shall to receive, investigate, review and issue a recommendation as to any written complaint or inquiry regarding an AHP or the AHP's practice in the Hospital within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The MEC shall advise the AHP, and the delegating Medical Staff member(s) if appropriate, in writing if a written complaint is received and may require the AHP and/or delegating Medical Staff member(s) to answer any questions by appearing before the MEC in person or through submission of a written statement in its sole discretion. Failure of the AHP to appear and/or provide requested information shall automatically terminate the AHP's authority to practice in the Hospital, with no right of review under this manual or otherwise.
- 4.1.2. **Investigation:** In investigating any complaint, the MEC shall have the authority to interview any persons with knowledge, review any Hospital records or other documents, consult with any third parties, and take such other steps as are necessary to obtain the needed information. The MEC may also authorize a subcommittee or persons, whether committee members or not, to conduct the investigation.
- 4.1.3. **Recommendation:** The MEC shall recommend limitation or termination of the AHP's authority to practice as appropriate and shall forward the recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
- 4.1.4. **Final Action:** At a subsequent regular meeting following receipt of a recommendation from the MEC, the Board of Trustees shall review this recommendation and make a final decision. The Hospital shall notify the AHP and any delegating Medical Staff member(s) in writing within 20 days of the Board of Trustees' final decision. If the decision is adverse as defined below, the AHP shall be entitled to a review under Section 5.0.

4.2 Automatic Action

4.2.1. Grounds: The authority of an AHP to practice is automatically terminated, effective immediately, if:

- a. The AHP's licensure, registration or certification (if any) is terminated, revoked or suspended;
- b. The AHP has not maintained the required professional liability insurance coverage;
- c. The AHP does not have a delegating Medical Staff member with the necessary clinical privileges to supervise, direct or delegate to the AHP; or
- d. The AHP violates the terms of a return to work agreement signed as part of the Hospital's impaired practitioner program.

4.2.2. Felony Conviction: Whenever an AHP is convicted of a felony, the authority to practice may be automatically terminated as of the date of such conviction.

4.2.3. No Right to Review: The Hospital shall notify the AHP and the delegating Medical Staff member, if applicable, in writing of this termination. An automatic action in accord with this Section is not an adverse action and shall not entitle the AHP to any review under this manual or otherwise.

4.3 Summary Action

In addition to the provisions above, the Chair of the MEC or the Hospital's President or designee shall have the authority to limit or terminate an AHP's authority to practice, effective immediately, if such action is necessary to protect the health and safety of patients or Hospital personnel or others, or to reduce a substantial and imminent likelihood of significant impairment to the life, health, safety of any patient, prospective patient, or other person, or to maintain Hospital operations. The AHP and any delegating Medical Staff member(s) shall be notified in writing of such action. The MEC shall investigate and review such action within 15 days and recommend whether such termination or limitation should be permanently imposed and shall within 15 days forward its recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall make a final decision within 30 days of receipt. The Hospital shall notify the AHP and any delegating Medical Staff member(s) in writing within 20 days of the Board of Trustees final decision. If the decision is adverse as defined below, the AHP shall be entitled to a review under Section 5.0.

4.4 Corrective Action Against Medical Staff Member

If a Medical Staff member fails to comply with any limitation of privileges imposed on the AHP, or utilizes an AHP in a manner not authorized by the Board of Trustees or not consistent with this manual or accepted professional standards, the matter may be referred for corrective action to the MEC.

4.5 Mental or Physical Impairment

Whenever an AHP's actions, demeanor, conduct, or information provided by any person, indicates that the AHP's current mental or physical status, including suspected impairment from alcohol and drugs, is detrimental to patient safety or to the delivery of quality patient care within the Hospital, such AHP may be asked at any time by the Administration, MEC, Medical Director, or Board of Trustees to provide evidence of current health status through physical or mental examination and shall be referred to the MEC. Such mental or physical examination shall be at the expense of the affected AHP, shall be provided by a practitioner selected by the MEC and may include a blood and/or urine analysis for AHP's suspected impairment from alcohol or drugs.

Despite the status of any physical or mental examination, or if the results of such physical or mental examination indicate impairment, any action may be taken as may be warranted by the circumstances, as outlined in Section 4.

Section 5.0 RIGHTS OF REVIEW

5.1 Scope

The AHP shall not be entitled to any procedural rights, including the right to a hearing, as set forth in the Bylaws of the Medical Staff, or to those rights afforded to employees pursuant to Hospital policy. The right of an AHP to a review or appeal of any decision is specifically limited to an adverse action and to the rights set forth in this manual.

5.2 Adverse Action

An Adverse Action is:

- 5.2.1. A decision by the Board of Trustees to deny the AHP's application, whether initial or renewal, for authority to practice in the Hospital, except as authorized in Section 4.3 of this manual;
- 5.2.2. A decision by the Board of Trustees to impose a limitation on the services to be provided by an individual AHP that is not applicable to all AHP's in that category. A limit on scope of authority at the time of initial application is not to be construed and is not an adverse action as defined herein; or
- 5.2.3. A decision by the Board of Trustees to limit or terminate an AHP's authority to practice pursuant to the summary action process defined in Section 4.3.

5.3 Review

An AHP notified of an adverse action must deliver a request, in writing, to the Hospital within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice, that the MEC afford the AHP an opportunity to address the MEC and request reconsideration. The AHP shall not be entitled to be accompanied by an attorney or other representative at the appearance. The MEC shall submit to the Board of Trustees at their next regular meeting a report of the review to include a confirmation of the decision or any recommended change as a result of the review. The Board of Trustees may affirm, reverse, or modify the previous decision. The Board of Trustees' reconsideration of the adverse action subsequent to the review by the MEC shall constitute an appellate review. The Hospital shall notify the AHP and any delegating Medical Staff member(s) in writing within 20 days of the Board of Trustees final decision.

5.4 Time Guidelines

The timeframes set forth in this manual for the MEC, Board of Trustees, and Hospital are guidelines only and may be extended if necessary by the respective committee or individual. Compliance with the times may not be compelled by the AHP.

5.5 Reapplication After Adverse Action

An AHP who has received a final adverse decision based on professional competence or conduct is not eligible to reapply for services for a period of 1 year from the effective date of the final adverse decision or the AHP's resignation or application withdrawal in lieu of an adverse action.

Section 6.0 AMENDMENT

6.1 Annual Review and Amendment

This manual shall be reviewed at least annually to determine if it reflects current practices and functioning of AHP's and may be amended in the following manner:

- (a) Amendments shall first be presented to the MEC for review and approval by a two-thirds vote of all members of that committee eligible to vote.
- (b) The action of the MEC is subject to the review and approval of the Board of Trustees, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

6.2 Mandated Changes to Manual

Notwithstanding the above requirements for amendments to this manual, this manual may be amended as required to comply with any state or federal law, rules and/or regulations of applicable state or federal agencies, or the requirements of the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as follows:

(a) Proposed amendments, along with documentation evidencing required compliance, shall be presented to the MEC and must be adopted by at least a two-thirds vote of all members of the MEC eligible to vote.

(b) The action of the MEC is subject to the review and approval of the Board of Trustees, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

6.3 Notification of Changes

Members of the medical staff and AHP shall be notified that amendments have been made to the manual and such amended manual shall be made available to AHP's and members of the Medical Staff or members of a specific department involved, and shall be compiled and maintained in a convenient form in the Hospital, readily available for reference.