



NEW REQUIREMENT FOR CREDENTIALING Effective January 1, 2008

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa) requiring Providers to use Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare's (CAQH) Universal Credentialing DataSource

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, use of the CAQH Universal Credentialing DataSource (UCD) will be required for initial credentialing and recredentialing with BCBSGa. UCD, a free online service, allows healthcare providers to fill out one application to meet the credentialing data needs of multiple organizations. In Georgia over 9,200 providers have completed their applications online since CAQH rolled out the UCD in January 2003.

All Georgia providers applying for initial or continuing participation with BCBSGa will be required to complete and submit their credentialing and recredentialing applications through the UCD by accessing the CAQH web site. Practitioners that do not have internet access may submit their application via fax to CAQH by first contacting the CAQH Help Desk at (888) 599-1771. Use of the UCD does not apply to providers participating through delegated credentialing agreements or are solely practicing in a hospital-based environment.

Credentialing associates and BCBSGa provider representatives are available to assist you via phone or by scheduling an on-site visit to your office.

Below are some helpful hints and things to remember when using the UCD.

- Please have your registration kit and CAQH Provider ID ready in order to complete the online application. If you do not have a CAQH Provider ID, please contact your provider representative to be added to the roster.
- Go to www.caqh.org/cred, and register your CAQH Provider ID. Registration and completion of the online application is free.
- If you have already registered your CAQH ID and completed your online application, ensure that you authorized BCBSGa to access your credentialing information. This can be completed in four easy steps (if you have chosen "global authorization", BCBSGa will already have access to your data).
- To authorize BCBSGa:
 1. Go to www.caqh.org/cred and enter your username and password
 2. Click the Authorize tab (located under the CAQH logo)
 3. Scroll down, locate BCBSGa, and check the box beside BCBSGa
 4. Click Save to submit your changes.

For questions about the UCD, call the CAQH help desk at 1-888-599-1771 or e-mail help@caqh.geoaccess.com.