

# STATE OF NEW YORK

599

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BENJAMIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the insurance law, in relation to the definition of clinical peer reviewer

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 4900 of the public health law, as  
2 amended by chapter 586 of the laws of 1998, item (B) of subparagraph  
3 (ii) of paragraph (a) as amended by chapter 41 of the laws of 2014 and  
4 subparagraph (iii) as amended and subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (a) as  
5 added by section 42 of subpart A of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of  
6 2019, is amended to read as follows:

7 2. "Clinical peer reviewer" means:

8 (a) [~~for purposes of title one of this article.~~

9 ~~(i) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted  
10 license to practice medicine; or~~

11 ~~(ii) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who.~~

12 ~~(A) where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted  
13 license, certificate or registration or, where no provision for a  
14 license, certificate or registration exists, is credentialed by the  
15 national accrediting body appropriate to the profession; and~~

16 ~~(B) is in the same profession and same or similar specialty as the  
17 health care provider who typically manages the medical condition or  
18 disease or provides the health care service or treatment under review;  
19 or~~

20 ~~(iii) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder  
21 treatment.~~

22 ~~(A) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted  
23 license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health~~

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ~~and has experience in the delivery of substance use disorder courses of~~  
2 ~~treatment; or~~

3 ~~(B) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who~~  
4 ~~specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of~~  
5 ~~substance use disorder courses of treatment and, where applicable,~~  
6 ~~possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate or~~  
7 ~~registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or regis-~~  
8 ~~tration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appro-~~  
9 ~~priate to the profession; or~~

10 ~~(iv) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental~~  
11 ~~health condition;~~

12 ~~(A) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted~~  
13 ~~license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health~~  
14 ~~and has experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treat-~~  
15 ~~ment; or~~

16 ~~(B) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who~~  
17 ~~specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of a~~  
18 ~~mental health courses of treatment and, where applicable, possesses a~~  
19 ~~current and valid non-restricted license, certificate, or registration~~  
20 ~~or, where no provision for a license, certificate or registration~~  
21 ~~exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appropriate to~~  
22 ~~the profession; and~~

23 ~~(b) for purposes of title two of this article;~~

24 ~~(i)] a physician who:~~

25 [~~(A)] (i) possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to~~  
26 ~~practice medicine under article one hundred thirty-one of the education~~  
27 ~~law;~~

28 [~~(B)] (ii) where applicable, is board certified or board eligible in~~  
29 ~~the same or similar specialty as the health care provider who typically~~  
30 ~~manages the medical condition or disease or provides the health care~~  
31 ~~service or treatment under review or appeal;~~

32 [~~(C)] (iii) has been practicing in such area of specialty for a period~~  
33 ~~of at least five years; [~~and]~~~~

34 ~~(iv) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder~~  
35 ~~treatment, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to prac-~~  
36 ~~tice medicine and specializes in behavioral health and has experience in~~  
37 ~~the delivery of substance use disorder courses of treatment;~~

38 ~~(v) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental~~  
39 ~~health condition, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license~~  
40 ~~to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health and has~~  
41 ~~experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treatment; and~~

42 [~~(D)] (vi) is knowledgeable about the health care service or treatment~~  
43 ~~under review or appeal; or~~

44 [~~(ii)] (b) a health care professional other than a licensed physician~~  
45 ~~who possesses a current and valid non-restricted license or certif-~~  
46 ~~ication under title eight of the education law;~~

47 [~~(A)] (i) where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-res-~~  
48 ~~tricted license, certificate or registration;~~

49 [~~(B)] (ii) where applicable, is credentialed by the national accredi-~~  
50 ~~ing body appropriate to the profession in the same profession and same~~  
51 ~~or similar specialty as the health care provider who typically manages~~  
52 ~~the medical condition or disease or provides the health care service or~~  
53 ~~treatment under review or appeal;~~

54 [~~(C)] (iii) has been practicing in such area of specialty for a period~~  
55 ~~of at least five years;~~

1 ~~(D)~~ (iv) is knowledgeable about the health care service or treatment  
2 under review or appeal; ~~[and]~~

3 (v) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder,  
4 specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of  
5 substance use disorder courses of treatment and, where applicable,  
6 possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate or  
7 registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or regis-  
8 tration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appro-  
9 priate to the profession;

10 (vi) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental  
11 health condition, specializes in behavioral health and has experience in  
12 the delivery of mental health courses of treatment and, where applica-  
13 ble, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate,  
14 or registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or  
15 registration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body  
16 appropriate to the profession; and

17 ~~(E)~~ (vii) where applicable to such health care professional's scope  
18 of practice, is clinically supported by a physician who possesses a  
19 current and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine.

20 ~~(e)~~ Nothing ~~[herein]~~ in this subdivision shall be construed to  
21 change any statutorily-defined scope of practice.

22 § 2. Subsection (b) of section 4900 of the insurance law, as amended  
23 by chapter 586 of the laws of 1998, item (ii) of subparagraph (B) of  
24 paragraph 1 as amended by chapter 41 of the laws of 2014, subparagraph  
25 (C) as amended and subparagraph (D) of paragraph 1 as added by section  
26 36 of subpart A of part BB of chapter 57 of the laws of 2019, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 (b) "Clinical peer reviewer" means:

29 (1) ~~[for purposes of title one of this article.]~~

30 ~~(A) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted~~  
31 ~~license to practice medicine; or~~

32 ~~(B) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who~~

33 ~~(i) where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted~~  
34 ~~license, certificate or registration or, where no provision for a~~  
35 ~~license, certificate or registration exists, is credentialed by the~~  
36 ~~national accrediting body appropriate to the profession; and~~

37 ~~(ii) is in the same profession and same or similar specialty as the~~  
38 ~~health care provider who typically manages the medical condition or~~  
39 ~~disease or provides the health care service or treatment under review;~~  
40 ~~or~~

41 ~~(C) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder~~  
42 ~~treatment;~~

43 ~~(i) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted~~  
44 ~~license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health~~  
45 ~~and has experience in the delivery of substance use disorder courses of~~  
46 ~~treatment; or~~

47 ~~(ii) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who~~  
48 ~~specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of~~  
49 ~~substance use disorder courses of treatment and, where applicable,~~  
50 ~~possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate or~~  
51 ~~registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or regis-~~  
52 ~~tration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appro-~~  
53 ~~priate to the profession; or~~

54 ~~(D) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental~~  
55 ~~health condition;~~

~~(i) a physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treatment; or~~

~~(ii) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treatment and, where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate, or registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or registration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appropriate to the profession; and~~

~~(2) for purposes of title two of this article:~~

~~(A)] a physician who:~~

~~[(i)] (A) possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine under article one hundred thirty-one of the education law;~~

~~[(ii)] (B) where applicable, is board certified or board eligible in the same or similar specialty as the health care provider who typically manages the medical condition or disease or provides the health care service or treatment under review or appeal;~~

~~[(iii)] (C) has been practicing in such area of specialty for a period of at least five years; [and]~~

~~(D) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder treatment, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of substance use disorder courses of treatment;~~

~~(E) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental health condition, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine and who specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treatment; and~~

~~[(iv)] (F) is knowledgeable about the health care service or treatment under review or appeal; or~~

~~[(B)] (2) a health care professional other than a licensed physician who possesses a current and valid non-restricted license or certification under title eight of the education law:~~

~~[(i)] (A) where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate or registration;~~

~~[(ii)] (B) where applicable, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appropriate to the profession in the same profession and same or similar specialty as the health care provider who typically manages the medical condition or disease or provides the health care service or treatment under review or appeal;~~

~~[(iii)] (C) has been practicing in such area of specialty for a period of at least five years;~~

~~[(iv)] (D) for purposes of a determination involving substance use disorder treatment, specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of substance use disorder courses of treatment and, where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate or registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or registration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body appropriate to the profession;~~

~~(E) for purposes of a determination involving treatment for a mental health condition, specializes in behavioral health and has experience in the delivery of mental health courses of treatment and, where applicable, possesses a current and valid non-restricted license, certificate, or registration or, where no provision for a license, certificate or~~

1 registration exists, is credentialed by the national accrediting body  
2 appropriate to the profession;  
3 (F) is knowledgeable about the health care service or treatment under  
4 review or appeal; and  
5 [~~(F)~~] (G) where applicable to such health care professional's scope of  
6 practice, is clinically supported by a physician who possesses a current  
7 and valid non-restricted license to practice medicine.  
8 [~~(3)~~] Nothing [~~herein~~] in this subdivision shall be construed to  
9 change any statutorily-defined scope of practice.  
10 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
11 have become a law.