

### CREDENTIALING & CLINICAL PRIVILEGES

In the process of granting clinicians access to AHS facilities and resources, Medical Affairs verifies credentials and coordinates the clinical privileging.

### WHAT IS CREDENTIALING AND CLINICAL PRIVILEGES?

"Credentialing is the formal recognition of professional and technical competence. The process involves 2 distinct elements:

- it establishes what information is necessary to confirm professional and technical competence including mechanisms for the verification of the information received by the hospital
- it evaluates the information received with reference to an applicant.

The delineation of clinical privileges is the process whereby the medical staff evaluates and recommends that an individual practitioner be allowed to provide specific patient care services in the institution. A clinical privilege is a specific grant or permission by a hospital for an individual practitioner to perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures or other patient care services within well-defined limits.

Medical staff is not synonymous with clinical privileges. Medical staff involves the practitioner's organizational rights and responsibilities. A member of the medical staff is not entitled to perform procedures or treat patients simply by virtue of being a member of the medical staff." <sup>[1]</sup>

### HOW DO WE DEFINE CLINICAL PRIVILEGES?

Clinical Privileges are an extension of the credentialing process and will often define the facilities the practitioner is privileged to access (including the level of access) and the procedures the Practitioner is capable to perform. Clinical Privileges are not always delineated for supervised practitioners or trainees as their level of access will be more generic and depend on a training rotation.

### MEDICAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The most common and most rigorous form of credentialing is the Medical Staff Appointment when it involves Practitioners (physicians, dentists, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, and podiatrists) licensed for and practicing independently (i.e. practicing as the most responsible provider). In this case, the credentialing process is governed by the AHS Medical Staff Bylaws. An Appointment is provincial and outlines the category of Appointment and the Practitioner's rights and responsibilities associated with that Appointment, as well as, the Clinical Departments to which the Practitioner is assigned.

[1] PEDIATRICS Vol. 110 No. 2 August 2002, pp. 414-418