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# Health insurance group offers single form to apply for Medicaid credentials



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Providers that contract with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System — the state's Medicaid program — now have an easier way to renew or get new credentials.

The credentialing process — in which health plans verify a physician's qualifications — is arduous. When doctors choose to accept insurance reimbursement, they are required to go through credentialing with each insurer, which can take hours of time and energy.

The Arizona Association of Health Plans has launched an alliance to credential and recredential all Medicaid providers in the state. The association is composed of all nine health plans that have AHCCCS contracts to provide care to the state's Medicaid population. Doctors with AHCCCS contracts now can fill out a single form that is accepted by all nine health plans.

[Deb Gullett](#), executive director of the Arizona Association of Health Plans and a government relations specialist at Phoenix law firm **Gallagher & Kennedy PA**, said AHCCCS officials liked the idea so much that they are requiring all contracted health plans to use the single-form system.

Plans call for adding the four health plans that have Regional Behavioral Health Authority contracts with the Arizona Department of Health Services to provide behavioral health care for Medicaid patients with mental health needs.

Gullett said she also plans to reach out to commercial insurance carriers eventually to provide the service for doctors in their networks.

"We can alleviate a significant administrative burden on our providers at a time when they've seen their (AHCCCS) reimbursement cut by 15 percent," Gullett said.

## ► CLOSER LOOK

**35,000**

Number of Arizona physicians who switched to this standardized credentialing process

**4**

Regional Behavioral Health Authority contractors that will be added to the system

**9**

AHCCCS health plans using the new system

**81%**

of AHCCCS physicians contract with more than one of the state Medicaid system's health plans

SOURCE: ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS