

NAMSS PASS™ Is Now Available

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As medical staff professionals, patient safety is our primary responsibility. As the experts in credentialing, we must establish industry best practices to promote quality care and mitigate potential risks associated with the practitioners we are considering for credentials. At the same time, given the economic climate facing all of our institutions, we must also use our expertise to perform our patient safety responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

In the last issue of *SYNERGY*, we introduced NAMSS PASS™, which stands for “Practitioner Affiliation Sharing Source.” NAMSS PASS™ is a secure, online database that provides you with quick, easy and inexpensive access to the affiliation history for the practitioners you credential. With your help and support, it will be a comprehensive, centralized, primary-source database. It will contain practitioners’ affiliation history with hospitals, surgery

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centers, health plans, group medical practices and other healthcare entities (HCEs) for the entirety of the practitioners’ careers — all available with the click of a mouse. NAMSS PASS™ was created through the collaborative efforts of NAMSS and the Practitioner Hospital Data Bank (PHDB).

We are pleased to announce that NAMSS PASS™ is now available to all MSPs via the NAMSS website (www.namss.org/NAMSSPASS). And for 2013, contributing entities (healthcare entities that upload their practitioner data) will have access to a major feature of this tool — gap analysis for all applicants — absolutely free!

What You Need to Know about NAMSS PASS™:

1. It’s easy to use! It is a very straightforward, intuitive tool that promotes efficiency and effectiveness.
2. There is no software to install and your data can be uploaded with a simple Excel spreadsheet.
3. Once up and running, a NAMSS PASS™ subscriber will be able to quickly and easily do all of the following:
 - Instantly obtain a practitioner’s affiliation history for all of the healthcare entities where he or she has been credentialed, as reported by those healthcare entities;
 - Compare and contrast the NAMSS PASS™ affiliation information with the information provided on the application form;

- Perform a quick “gap analysis” regarding practitioners to determine if any credentialing red flags are present; and
- Immediately print “good standing” letters from any one of the contributing hospitals, if a letter for that practitioner is available. This means no more faxing or mailing requests to individual affiliations, no more waiting for responses to be returned, and no need for second and third requests for verification!



NAMSS PASS
PRACTITIONER AFFILIATION SHARING SOURCE

What Your Administrators and CMOs Need to Know about NAMSS PASS™:

- Gap analysis for contributing entities is free in 2013.
- There are other significant cost savings for NAMSS members and entities that support this initiative by contributing data.
- NAMSS PASS™ offers a safe and secure way to share affiliation history — something your facility is already doing. We’ve just streamlined it and made it much easier.
- Contributing entities will have the ability to choose one of two good standing letters, both of which are based in large part on the well-known federal Health Care Quality Improvement Act. These letters will finally help provide our industry with a common definition and understanding of what is intended by the words “good standing.”
- Although The Joint Commission does not require verification of a practitioner’s affiliation history, and some other consultants agree with this stance, we know that this is a fundamental step in the credentialing process and is essential to patient safety. It has become an industry best practice and is an integral piece to mitigating potential legal risks associated with negligent credentialing claims.
- Additional information, including the two good standing letter options and a comprehensive FAQs document, can be found online at www.namss.org/NAMSSPASS.

To achieve our goal of instantly and easily obtaining practitioners’ affiliation history for all of the healthcare entities where they have been credentialed during their careers, it will take the participation of the full MSP community. Be a leader in your institution and a leader in your profession, and join today! Together, we can do great things. ■