



# 2026

## CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

FOR THE **CERTIFIED PROVIDER CREDENTIALING SPECIALIST (CPCS®)**,  
**CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL IN MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT (CPMSM®)**, AND THE  
**CERTIFIED PROVIDER ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST (CPES)** EXAMINATIONS

# 2026 EXAM DATES

## CPCS, CPMSM, & CPES

### SPRING TESTING PERIOD

Application Opening Date: Monday, November 10, 2025

Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Final Application Deadline (with late fee): Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Testing Period: Wednesday, March 4 through Wednesday, April 1, 2026

### SUMMER TESTING PERIOD

Application Opening Date: Monday, April 6, 2026

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Final Application Deadline (with late fee): Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Testing Period: Wednesday, June 17 through Wednesday, July 15, 2026

### FALL TESTING PERIOD

Application Opening Date: Monday, July 20, 2026

Application Deadline: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Final Application Deadline (with late fee): Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Testing Period: Wednesday, September 30 through Wednesday, October 28, 2026

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEDICAL STAFF SERVICES (NAMSS)

Certification Commission of NAMSS (CCN)

2001 K Street NW, 3rd Floor North

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 367-1196

[certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org)

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The Certification Commission of NAMSS (CCN) was established in 1980 to advance the profession of medical services management through the development of a certification program. The CCN is the independent certifying body of the National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS), a nonprofit professional membership organization. The CCN's mission is to assure a comprehensive level of knowledge through certification in the medical services profession. The CCN is responsible for establishing the policies and procedures that govern the certification and recertification programs of NAMSS. Earning the CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES designation recognizes professional achievement through participation in this voluntary certification program.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CANDIDATE

**It is the responsibility of each candidate to read and understand the contents of this handbook before applying for an examination.** This handbook contains current information about the policies and procedures of the certification program, eligibility criteria, exam content outline, and the reference materials used to develop each examination. It is essential that each candidate keep this handbook readily available for reference until the entire certification process, including score reporting, is completed. **The 2026 Candidate Handbook supersedes all previous versions of this handbook.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Medical Services Professionals (MSPs) are on the frontlines of healthcare, promoting patient safety and helping to ensure public protection through access to quality healthcare services. MSPs administer the vital risk management function of credentialing and are significantly involved in the accreditation and regulatory compliance of their healthcare organizations. The certification program establishes industry standards and serves as a comprehensive measure of knowledge in the field. The CPCS, CPMSM, and CPES designations identify MSPs who have met an established standard of knowledge and understanding in the field of healthcare credentialing, governance, law, accreditation, regulatory compliance and provider enrollment.

The CPCS, CPMSM, and CPES designations provide employers and the public with the assurance that certified individuals possess the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience in provider credentialing, medical services management, and/or provider enrollment to perform their duties competently.

## GOALS OF CERTIFICATION

The NAMSS certification program aspires to the following goals for provider enrollment, provider credentialing, and medical services management:

1. Establish professional standards for medical services professionals (MSPs);

2. Provide a means for measuring knowledge against a predetermined standard;
3. Identify the MSPs who are knowledgeable in the field of provider credentialing, medical services, and/or provider enrollment;
4. Provide prospective health care employers with a means to identify qualified candidates who have met a predetermined standard of knowledge;
5. Provide the opportunity for professional growth and personal satisfaction; and
6. Promote the image and professionalism of medical services professionals

## DEFINITIONS

Provider credentialing, medical services management, and provider enrollment occur in various healthcare settings, are performed by professionals with diverse educational and work backgrounds, and involves the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform the tasks outlined in the Exam Content Outlines (see pages 12-14).

CCN defines credentialing as the essential process to certify a healthcare provider's qualifications to treat patients, involving a complete assessment of a healthcare professional's history, education, training, and quality of care. Whereas provider enrollment is the essential process through which a medical provider applies to participate in a health insurance network, seeking approval to deliver care to insured members and receive reimbursement for covered services.

### Certified Provider Credentialing Specialist (CPCS)

The CPCS is typically employed or contracted by a healthcare organization including, but not limited to, hospitals (health systems), health plans, ambulatory care settings, group practices, and credentialing verification organizations.

A CPCS is an integral part of a credentialing team whose responsibilities include but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining compliance with regulatory and accrediting bodies;
2. Participating in the development and implementation of credentialing processes and procedures;
3. Credentialing of physicians, allied health, and other practitioners;
4. Overseeing or participating in the development of and adherence to:
  - Governance bylaws;
  - Department rules and regulations;
  - Policies pertaining to medical staff, practitioner/provider, and the organization; and
5. Collecting and maintaining an accurate practitioner database and analyzing verification information.

The CPCS exam is designed to test knowledge on the broad scope of those professionals employed at the level to which the title “Credentialing Specialist” would appropriately apply.

The CPCS exam tests specifically to the areas of credentialing, privileging, and primary source verification. In the medical services profession, hands-on experience with the application of accreditation standards and experience with conducting the credentialing activities is a requisite for the candidate for certification.

**Provider enrollment specialists involved in on-boarding, contracting, and recruitment activities are not eligible to sit the CPCS examination. The Certification Commission recognizes that Provider enrollment specialists are typically involved in facilitation of applications and may perform some primary source verification. However, they do not possess current, direct, hands-on involvement in the major processes covered in the CPCS Exam Content Outline in the Candidate Handbook. The CPCS exam does not include content relative to provider enrollment, and Provider enrollment specialists should refer to the CPES certification exam specific qualifications.**

### Certified Professional in Medical Services Management (CPMSM)

The CPMSM is typically employed or contracted by a healthcare organization including, but not limited to, hospitals (health systems), health plans, ambulatory care settings, group practices or credentialing verification organizations.

The CPMSM exam focuses on the management role in medical services to include functions such as staffing, budgets, medical staff information systems, continuing education, and practitioner/provider recruitment, and relations. A CPMSM is an integral part of a multidisciplinary team whose responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

1. Maintaining compliance with regulatory and accrediting bodies;
2. Developing and implementing credentialing/privileging processes and procedures;
3. Developing and implementing provider enrollment processes and procedures;
4. Overseeing development of and adherence to:
  - governance bylaws;
  - department rules and regulations; and
  - policies pertaining to medical staff, practitioner/provider, and the organization

**The CPMSM exam does not test to areas such as billing, physician practice management, software development, physician recruitment, or physician staffing outside the functions of primary source verification and compliance with the accreditation standards.**

**Hands-on experience with the application of accreditation standards and experience with overseeing a staff conducting**

**the credentialing and/or provider enrollment activities is a requisite for the candidate for certification. Moreover, candidates are expected to have current, direct, full-time, hands-on involvement in the major processes typically associated with this aspect of the health care industry including a majority of the areas covered in the CPMSM Exam Content Outline in the Candidate Handbook.**

### Certified Provider Enrollment Specialist (CPES)

The CPES is typically employed or contracted by healthcare organizations including, but not limited to hospitals (health systems), ambulatory care settings, group practices, revenue cycle management or billing agencies.

Responsibilities Include:

1. Knowledge of practitioner and organizational enrollment terminology and documents required for enrollment.
2. Delegated and non-delegated payor enrollment with health plans, meeting health plan requirements, and knowledge of health plan accreditation standards.
3. Maintaining compliance with Medicare enrollment, revalidation, reassignment of benefits, and ongoing enrollment management.
4. Collecting and maintaining an accurate practitioner database.
5. Setting-up and maintaining CAQH practitioner profiles, organization profiles, and practice manager accounts.

**The CPES exam is designed to assess the knowledge of professionals working in various settings where Provider Enrollment tasks are performed. It specifically tests areas such as practitioner enrollment, facility enrollment, re-enrollment, CAQH management, and delegated credentialing processes. In the medical services profession, candidates seeking certification should have hands-on experience with applying accreditation standards related to delegated credentialing and those applicable to payers enrollment standards. They should also have experience in conducting enrollment activities.**

## WHO SHOULD SIT FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The NAMSS Certification exams are for those with experience in the provider credentialing, enrollment, and medical services management. Candidates are expected to have current, direct, and hands-on involvement in the major processes associated with the provider credentialing, enrollment, or medical services management aspect of the healthcare industry, including a majority of the areas covered in the specific Exam Content Outlines listed on (see pages 12-13)

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must meet the following eligibility routes **at the time of application**. The CCN reserves the right to conduct random audits to verify candidate eligibility, including but not limited to

contacting references. Any candidate found ineligible at the time of application will forfeit \$125 of the application fee.

### CPCS Examination

At the time of application, candidate must be currently employed or contracted in the medical services profession for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 24 months **AND** have a total of three years experience within the past five years that meets the aforementioned requirements.

### CPMSM Examination

At the time of application, candidate must be currently employed or contracted in the medical services profession for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 24 months **AND** have a total of five years of experience within the past eight years that meets the aforementioned requirements.

### CPES Examination

At the time of application, a candidate must have been or currently be employed or contracted in the profession of provider enrollment for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 24 months **AND** have a total of three years experience within the past five years.

## ABOUT THE EXAMINATIONS

The CCN partners with Meazure Learning, an independent assessment company that provides assistance with exam development, administration, and scoring.

A standardized survey of the profession known as a job task analysis is conducted every five to seven years to ensure that all examination content is current, valid, and representative of the responsibilities of provider credentialing, medical services management, and provider enrollment. The NAMSS certification examinations are the only standardized and accredited certification exams currently offered to test the knowledge, skills, and abilities of credentialing, medical services management, and provider enrollment professionals.

The CPCS exam is an objective examination consisting of 150 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of three hours to complete this exam.

The CPMSM exam is an objective examination consisting of 175 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of four hours to complete this exam.

The CPES exam is an objective examination consisting of 150 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of three hours to complete this exam.

A computer-based examination is administered during three, month-long testing periods per year, through a network of testing sites and through live remote proctoring facilitated by our vendor partner, Meazure Learning. Further information regarding scheduling appointments can be found on pages 7-8 of this handbook and will be sent to applicants upon being deemed eligible to sit for the examination.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

NAMSS complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADAAA) in order to accommodate candidates with special needs. Candidates with documented visual, physical, hearing, or learning disabilities that would prevent them from taking an examination under standard conditions may request reasonable testing accommodations and arrangements.

For the exam administrations, special needs must be documented in writing by the candidate's doctor or other qualified professional on official letterhead. This written documentation must accompany the CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES application. Documentation must include the current functional limitations likely to impact a candidate's ability to take the examination under standard conditions, as well as specific recommendations for testing accommodations with a specific rationale for each request. Non-specific requests such as "extra time," "extra breaks," or "the maximum allowable time" are not able to be accepted. Please note that requests for reasonable accommodations must be received **at least eight (8) weeks** prior to the start of a testing period.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The CCN, NAMSS, and Meazure Learning do not discriminate against any individual or entity on the basis of religion, age, gender, race, disability, nationality, creed, socioeconomic status, or any other protected classification. All individuals submitting an application for the examination will be judged solely on published criteria. Candidates are not required to be a member of any organization to apply for NAMSS certification.

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All proprietary rights to the CPCS, CPMSM, and CPES exams, including copyright, are held by NAMSS. In order to protect the validity of the scores reported, candidates must adhere to strict guidelines regarding proper conduct in handling these copyrighted proprietary materials. The law strictly prohibits any attempt to reproduce all or part of the CPCS, CPMSM, and CPES exams. Such attempts may include, but are not limited to: removing materials from the testing room; aiding others by any means in reconstructing any portion of the exam; posting content on any discussion forum; and selling, distributing, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of the exam or practice exams. Alleged copyright violations will be investigated and, if warranted, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It should be noted that examination scores might become invalid in the event of this type of suspected breach. Permanent revocation of certification may occur if allegations are substantiated.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the following directions to access the NAMSS online application system. Questions should be directed to the NAMSS Executive Office at [certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org).



- The online applications for the CPCS, CPMSM, and CPES examinations examination are available at [www.namss.org/Certification/CPCS](http://www.namss.org/Certification/CPCS); [www.namss.org/Certification/CPMSM](http://www.namss.org/Certification/CPMSM); [www.namss.org/Certification/CPES](http://www.namss.org/Certification/CPES).

- It is recommended that you submit your completed application by the application deadlines listed on page 2 to avoid any late fees.

You will need the following to complete the online application:

- A Personal NAMSS Account
- Your Government Issued ID (i.e. Driver's License or Passport)
- Your Supervisor's Work Email Address
- Supporting Documentation (if applicable)
- Method(s) of Payment
- Resume, Job Description or CV

1. Create or sign into your NAMSS account.
  - If you do not already have a NAMSS account, you may create one. The online application requires that you create an account on our NAMSS website. The application fields will be pre-populated based on the information from your account profile. Please note that you do not need to become a NAMSS member to create a NAMSS online account.
2. Complete the application.
  - The online application consists of several sections. You must complete all sections prior to submitting your application. Please note that your name on your application **MUST** match your government issued ID.
  - If you skip any questions, you will receive an alert that will prompt you to complete the missing fields.
3. Submit required documents.
  - If you require special testing accommodations, please attach supporting documentation to the online application. You may also submit any additional documentation via email to [certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org).
  - Please note that all supporting documentation must be received **at least eight (8) weeks** prior to the start of a testing period.
4. Pay the application fee.
  - You may pay for the application online with a credit or debit card. If you prefer to pay by check, please make all checks payable to NAMSS.
  - A confirmation page will appear upon remittance. It will include a reference number for your records. For check payments, you must mail in your payment along with the confirmation page.
5. Submit the application.
  - Once your application is completed and submitted, it is recommended that you print a copy of the confirmation page for your records.
  - Submitted applications are final and can no longer be edited.

- The NAMSS Executive Office will email you to confirm receipt of your application. A follow-up email will be sent upon your supervisor's verification of your application.

## EXAMINATION FEES

NAMSS Members	\$425
Non-Members	\$575

### Other Fees (see conditions below)

Rescheduling, Transfer and Cancellation Fee	\$125
Late Fee	\$125
Administrative Fee for Returned Checks	\$30

Make check or money order payable to NAMSS.

VISA, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted.

Checks should be mailed to:

NAMSS  
8658 Solution Center  
Chicago, IL 60677-8006

Faxed or emailed application submissions will not be accepted.

## LATE REGISTRATION

Applications submitted after the deadline may be processed if such registration can be accommodated. There is a \$125 late fee for all applications submitted after the deadline, if accommodations can be made for that testing cycle.

## RESCHEDULING AND TRANSFER OF EXAM APPOINTMENTS

Requests for rescheduling an examination appointment to a different date *within the testing period* must be submitted directly to Measure Learning through the scheduling web link listed on your Notice to Schedule (NTS) email. All rescheduled appointments will be subject to a \$125 rescheduling fee.

## TRANSFERRING YOUR EXAM

Requests for transferring an examination appointment to a *different testing cycle* must be submitted through the online application portal. All transfers of examinations to a different testing window are subject to the \$125 transfer fee.

Failure to keep an appointment or canceling an appointment without the appropriate notice (**less than five business days prior to the scheduled appointment**) will result in forfeiture of all applicable exam fees. You may transfer your exam to the next testing window up to two times. If you wish to transfer your

examination further than two testing windows from the original application, you must submit for a cancellation and refund and resubmit a new application. Upon transferring your exam, you are no longer eligible for a refund and will forfeit all applicable exam fees should you decide to cancel your exam during a subsequent testing period.

## CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

**The CCN must receive all requests for a cancellation/refund in writing, no later than two weeks prior to the start of your original testing window. If you have previously transferred your exam to a new testing window, you are not eligible for a refund.**

You may email a request for a refund to the NAMSS Executive Office to [certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org). Requests for cancellations/refunds may be made only by the exam candidate. Refunds will be issued less a \$125 processing fee.

Written requests for a refund/cancellation must be **submitted** by the following dates:

**Spring Testing Window – February 18, 2026**

**Summer Testing Window – June 3, 2026**

**Fall Testing Window – September 16, 2026**

## SCHEDULING YOUR EXAM APPOINTMENT

The certification exams are administered during an established month-long period at computerized testing facilities and through live remote proctoring managed by Meazure Learning. Available testing dates and times vary by location and modality.

After an application for a computer-based exam is approved, a Notice to Schedule (NTS) will be sent via email **approximately thirty days prior to the opening of the testing window.**

The NTS will include the scheduling web link, your username, and your password. When you access the online scheduling system with your username and password, you will be able to choose an exam modality (i.e. in-person at a testing center or live remote proctoring), date, and time. We recommend that you access the scheduling web link as soon as you receive your NTS to schedule your appointment. Waiting to schedule your test appointment may significantly limit the date/time availability of your choice. All available testing locations, modalities and dates will be presented to you on the scheduling web link.

Please note that appointment dates and times for both modalities and site locations for in-person testing centers are on a first-come, first-served basis, and may vary in availability with each exam window.

If you select to take your exam via live remote proctoring, you may take the exam from your home or office. The exam will be reviewed by a proctor observing via webcam to ensure exam security. Additional information on technical requirements for the remote proctoring process will be provided when you register for your test appointment.

Within 24 hours of submitting your scheduling request, you will receive a scheduling confirmation email. The scheduling confirmation, plus government-issued photo identification with signature, must be presented to the proctor either in-person or via webcam if live remote proctoring to gain admission to the examination appointment. If you have any questions regarding your scheduled exam appointment, please contact Meazure Learning at (855) 772-8678.

## DAY OF THE EXAM

### In-Person Testing Center Appointments

It is strongly recommended that you familiarize yourself with the testing center location and parking facilities prior to the day of your exam so that you arrive at the testing center stress-free and on time.

On the day of the exam, report to the testing center at the time indicated on your confirmation notice email. Late arrivals may not be admitted. If you have any problems regarding your scheduled exam location or proctor, please contact Meazure Learning at (855) 772-8678.

Upon arriving at the testing center, you will be required to present your confirmation email and provide one form of current government-issued photo identification, which must bear your name and your signature. Examples of appropriate identification include a passport or driver's license. If you do not bring the appropriate identification to the testing center, you will not be able to test within that testing period. The name on your photo identification must exactly match the name that appears on your eligibility notice.

The testing center administrator will provide a brief orientation and then escort you to a workstation. You must remain in your seat during the examination other than during the optional 15 minute break between the two parts of your exam. You may only leave your workstation when authorized by a testing center staff member. If you leave your workstation during the exam, extra time will not be provided and your examination may be terminated at the discretion of the proctor.

In the event that Internet connectivity is lost, your submitted answers will not be lost and the computer will stop the clock on your exam at the time connectivity is lost. The clock will resume when connectivity is re-established and you will be able to complete the exam in the fully allotted time period. You must notify the testing proctor if Internet connectivity is lost. The testing proctor will be able to contact Meazure Learning should the need arise.

Contact the testing center administrator if you:

- Believe there is a problem with your computer; or
- Require assistance from the testing center administrator.



## Live Remote Proctored Appointments

It is strongly recommended that you familiarize yourself with all live remote proctoring (LRP) regulations from Meazure Learning prior to the day of the examination.

When you check in for the appointment, it takes approximately 20 minutes to complete the check-in process which includes security checks, ID verification, attestation statements, etc.

On the date and time of your scheduled testing appointment, you will click on the link provided in the confirmation notice email, entering your username and password from the Notice to Schedule email to return to the LRP dashboard. From the dashboard, you will select “Start Exam” to begin the testing appointment.

Please remember: if your computer fails the check of system requirements, you must correct the issue or obtain an alternate computer to complete the testing appointment; candidates are required to pass the system requirements check prior to testing. You must have **full administrative access** to your computer in order to launch the LRP software. If you are using a work issued computer for your exam, please consult your IT team to ensure that you will be able to launch the software.

After the system requirements check, the proctor verifies your identity by examining the candidate's government-issued ID. You may communicate with the proctor via chat features available within the live online proctoring launch site. If directed by the proctor, or in case of technical difficulties, you may contact the proctor by telephone or chat.

The proctor has complete access to your computer to monitor for unauthorized activities, such as accessing other software applications, using multiple monitors, or having someone else take the examination remotely. The proctor can terminate the testing appointment for integrity reasons at any time.

As part of the login process, you will show the proctor a 360-degree view of your environment, including the desk, by holding and moving the webcam or laptop with a webcam as directed by the proctor. After the environment check, the proctor enables the monitoring software, which allows the proctor to watch you via your webcam and record video and audio during the testing appointment. When the proctor has completed the necessary steps to ensure monitoring, you will click a link to launch the examination login process. During the examination login process, the proctor and candidate complete a dual login in which the you verify your information, complete the candidate attestation statement, and review the testing rules and policies. In addition, prior to launching the examination, you can review the online tutorial of remote proctoring system.

Testing time for candidates begins when the examination is launched. When you complete your examination, you will click the “Submit Exam” button and confirm that you are ready to submit the examination. A thank-you message is presented on the screen and we encourage you to print this messages as a confirmation.

## EXAMINATION POLICIES

To ensure all results are earned under comparable conditions and represent fair and accurate measurement, it is necessary to maintain a standardized testing environment. The following recommendations, policies, and procedures pertain to every exam candidate:

- Instructions by testing center personnel and proctors are to be followed.
- An on-screen clock will be provided and will calculate the allotted time for the exam. You will not be permitted to continue beyond the allotted time limit.
- Do not bring books or other reference materials into the testing room. The testing center administrator will not permit anyone found possessing such materials to continue the test, and you will forfeit all applicable examination fees. For live remote proctoring, your proctor via webcam will ensure that your testing space is secure and that no books or reference materials are present.
- Electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, tablets, etc.) are not permitted.
- Visitors are not permitted at the testing center.
- Bring a jacket or sweater without a hood or pockets for air-conditioned rooms.

**Note:** On rare occasions, major technical problems with computer equipment at the testing center may require rescheduling of an examination at the testing center administrator's discretion. In these cases, no additional fee will be assessed.

## DURING THE EXAM

All exams are administered in a two-part examination format. Once you complete the first part of the examination, you will click “submit.” You will then be allowed up to a 15-minute break. This will be the only authorized break permitted during the examination. This break is optional. You can use any portion of the total testing time for part 1 of the exam. The time remaining is available to complete part 2.

During the exam, you have the opportunity, time permitting, to return to answered questions, review and change previously answered questions, re-evaluate questions marked for review, and review responses for each section of the exam. Once you click “submit” for part 1, you will no longer be able to review any questions in part 1. You will then have the same opportunity to review all questions in part 2 prior to completing the exam.

When your exam time expires, all questions will be included in the final calculation of your score, even if they are blank or marked for review. Once your allotted time has expired, or you exit the exam, you cannot see or review the questions again. Remember that your answers will not be lost and the clock will be stopped should Internet connectivity be lost during the exam.

The CPCS exam is an objective examination consisting of 150 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of three hours to complete this exam, and the two sections of the exam will each have 75 questions.

The CPMSM exam is an objective examination consisting of 175 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of four hours to complete this exam. Section One will contain 88 questions and Section Two will contain 87 questions.

The CPES exam is an objective examination consisting of 150 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will have a total of 3 hours to complete this exam, and the two sections of the exam will each have 75 questions.

### Exit Survey

At the end of the exam, you will be asked to complete a brief survey with an evaluation of your testing experience. Your survey answers are anonymous and confidential. All comments are reviewed and, if possible or necessary, changes are implemented.

## EXAM SECURITY/GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

The CCN and Meazure Learning maintain established test administration and security standards to ensure that all candidates are provided with a fair and consistent opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Any candidate who does not have positive identification, uses unauthorized aids, engages in misconduct, or does not follow testing procedures may be dismissed from the examination. The CCN may choose to have the test scores of such candidates cancelled, in which case all applicable exam fees will be forfeited.

The following are examples of behaviors considered to be misconduct and will not be tolerated during the administration of the CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES exams:

- Giving or receiving assistance of any kind;
- Using references or aids;
- Attempting to take the exam for someone else;
- Failing to follow testing regulations and/or test proctor instructions;
- Creating disturbances;
- Copying or attempting to remove exam questions and/or scratch paper from the exam room;
- Tampering with testing center computers;
- Leaving the exam room without permission;
- Using electronic communication devices (cell phones, pagers, tablets, etc.).

In the event of misconduct, gathered evidence is submitted to the CCN and Meazure Learning for review. Both the CCN and Meazure Learning have the right to question the validity of test scores. If there is sufficient cause to question the score, Meazure Learning will refer the matter to the CCN, which will make the final decision on whether or not the score is to be cancelled. Such determinations may not be appealed. In the event the CCN

determines a test score is invalid and should be cancelled, the CCN will notify the candidate (all applicable examination fees will be forfeited). The CCN, at its sole discretion, may decide to:

- Allow the candidate to retest at an additional cost;
- Prohibit the candidate from ever sitting for the exam and earning the certification; or
- Take other action as deemed appropriate.

## SCORING INFORMATION

The pass/fail cut-off score is determined using a criterion-referenced method, which allows the performance of each candidate taking the exam to be judged against a predetermined standard rather than against other candidates. The predetermined standard is set through a process of statistical equating, taking into account actual candidate performance across test cycles, to ensure the validity, reliability, and legal defensibility of the exam.

Scaled scoring is used on all exam forms. Scaled scoring involves a mathematical conversion of the number of items that a candidate correctly answers transformed so that there is a consistent scale used across all forms of the test. The passing scaled score is 400 for the CPCS exam and, 450 for the CPMSM exam, and 500 for the CPES exam.

### Exam Reliability

The statistical analyses performed on the CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES exams have shown that the exam is highly reliable. This reliability is a direct result of the efforts of the CCN, working with subject matter experts, to ensure that ambiguity is eliminated from individual exam questions, and that the questions address concepts appropriate for candidates sitting for the exam.

## EXAM RESULTS

Login instructions to the Meazure Learning online score report portal will be emailed to the address reflected on your CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES application within six to eight weeks after the testing window has closed. NAMSS will retain exam results for a period of seven years.

To ensure the confidentiality of exam results, actual scores will not be released via telephone, or any other electronic transmission by either the CCN or Meazure Learning personnel. Scores will NOT be sent to employers, schools, other individuals, or organizations under any circumstances. Names of candidates who do not pass the examination are confidential and are not revealed under any circumstances, except by legal compulsory process. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to the NAMSS Executive Office at [certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org).

## APPLICANT/CANDIDATE APPEALS

Decisions by the CCN regarding initial determination of eligibility to take an examination, continued certification, disruptive examination conditions and verification of an examination score may be appealed to the CCN. Failure to pass the examination is not in itself grounds for appeal. The grounds for appeal to the CCN are only those stated in the previous sentence.

An appeal to the CCN must be made in writing by email, with the subject line "appeal" to [certification@namss.org](mailto:certification@namss.org).

All such appeals must be received by the CCN **within 30 days of the date** (1) that the CCN provided notice denying eligibility to take the examination or (2) the date the CCN provided notice denying continued certification, (3) the date on which a disruptive examination condition or examination occurred, or (4) that the candidate received official notice of the examination score.

The written appeal must identify the precise factual basis, applicable rules or examination conditions that are the basis for the appeal.

## RE-EXAMINATION

Certification exams may be taken only once during a testing period. However, exams may be taken in subsequent testing periods, upon submission of a new application and payment of examination fees. Candidates may take any individual exam **up to two times within a 12 month period**. If a candidate does not pass the exam upon their second attempt, there will be a waiting period of one full year to reapply to take the exam. With each new application submission, candidates will be required to meet the eligibility requirements in effect at the time of submission.

## ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION

Certification is valid for three years. Candidates who pass the certification examination(s) may use the appropriate designation "CPCS," "CPMSM," and/or "CPES" upon receipt of official examination results indicating a passing score. Newly certified individuals will receive a CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES digital certificate for display on their email signature and social media websites. For more information visit [www.namss.org/Certification/NAMSS-Digital-Badges](http://www.namss.org/Certification/NAMSS-Digital-Badges).

All certificants with a CPCS, CPMSM, and/or CPES in good standing will be reflected on the "Good Standing Report" available on the NAMSS website. This is the single source of truth to verify a current certificant.

## RECERTIFICATION

Recertification is designed to assure a level of continued competence through the ongoing enhancement of knowledge and skills in the field of provider credentialing, medical services management, and/or provider enrollment. Certificants holding either dual or triple certification will be required to recertify only once every three years, at the time of the expiration of the first certification. Certificants, whether holding single, dual, or triple certification, must meet one of the following continuing education requirements every three years in order to maintain their certification.

- Single certification: Submit 30 hours of continuing education credits, at least 15 hours of which must be NAMSS-approved coursework; or
- Dual certification: Submit 45 hours of continuing education credits, at least 20 hours of which must be NAMSS-approved coursework; or
- Triple certification: Submit 55 hours of continuing education credits, at least 25 hours of which must be NAMSS-approved coursework; or
- Sit for and pass the certification examination(s) under the eligibility requirements in effect at the time application for recertification is made.

All certified candidates are responsible for keeping track of their recertification dates and tracking their recertification activities. Please note: Continuing education credits must be relevant to your role and your certification.

Please visit [www.namss.org/recertification](http://www.namss.org/recertification) for complete recertification information.

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT ETHICS FOR NAMSS CERTIFICANTS

NAMSS Certificants shall abide by the ethical principles developed to safeguard the public and to promote quality patient care through support of the healthcare organization and its functions.

NAMSS Certificants shall share knowledge, foster educational opportunities, and encourage personal and professional growth through continued self-improvement and application of current advancements in the profession and agree to follow the NAMSS Ethics and Code of Conduct.

NAMSS Certificants shall refrain from conduct deemed harmful to the public or inappropriate to the profession.

Any such violation of the Ethics and Code of Conduct Policy by a NAMSS Certificant may result in suspension or revocation of certification. For a copy of the Ethics and Code of Conduct Policy, please visit [www.namss.org/ethics](http://www.namss.org/ethics).

## EXAM PREPARATION

A new form of the exam is assembled annually in April. Exam questions are based on the standards in effect as of May 1 of the year the exam is assembled. To be more specific, the exam offered in Spring and Summer 2026 was assembled in April 2025 and reflects the standards effective as of May 1, 2025. The exam offered in Fall 2026 will be assembled in April 2026 and will reflect the standards effective as of May 1, 2026.

For further clarification, the exam offered in Spring and Summer 2026 was assembled in April 2025 and the exam offered in Fall 2026 will be assembled in April 2026.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

Exam questions are based on a wide variety of publications, regulations, and resources in the medical services field. Suggested preparation for the examination may include, but is not limited to, the following resources:

### CPCS & CPMSM Exams

- AAAHC
- CMS Hospital Conditions of Participation
- CMS Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals
- DNV National integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (NIAHO)
- EMTALA
- Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (HCQIA)
- HFAP/ACHC
- Joint Commission Accreditation Standards
- NCQA CVO Standards
- NCQA Health Plan Standards and Guidelines
- NPDB/HIPDB Guidebook
- Robert's Rules of Order
- URAC

### CPES Exam

- CAQH
- CMS Medicare Program Integrity Manual
- CMS NPPES
- CMS PECOS
- CMS Hospital Conditions of Participation
- CMS Medicare Managed Care Manual
- NAMSS Provider Enrollment Glossary
- NCQA CVO Standards
- NCQA Health Plan Standards
- URAC

## 2026 CPCS EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

### Credentialing and Privileging: Conduct and Maintain Credentialing and Privileging Processes According to Accreditation Standards and Regulatory Requirements (61%)

- Analyze an initial application and supporting documentation for completeness and eligibility and then notify the practitioner of the application status.
- Analyze a reappointment/recredentialing application and supporting documentation for completeness and eligibility and then notify the practitioner of the application status.
- Process an initial or reappointment/recredentialing application by using primary or designated equivalent sources.
- Collect, verify, analyze, and deliver practitioner-specific data obtained during the credentialing process to provide the information necessary to make decisions.
- Process practitioner requests for privileges by obtaining documentation of competency.

### Ongoing Monitoring and Compliance: Ensure Continuous Adherence to Accreditation Standards and Regulatory Requirements (27%)

- Monitor and evaluate practitioner sanctions, complaints, and adverse information between credentialing cycles.
- Assist in maintenance of recurring expirables by using primary or designated equivalent sources between credentialing cycles.
- Coordinate and monitor professional practice evaluation documentation on an ongoing basis.

### Supporting Departmental Operations: Support Functions of Departmental Operations (12%)

- Participate in internal and external audits of practitioner files and operational documents.
- Facilitate credentialing and privileging functions and meeting management.

## SPRING AND SUMMER 2026 CPMSM EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

*CPMSM content outline offered only in Spring and Summer 2026 testing windows.*

### Credentialing, Privileging and Enrollment: Develop, Manage, Conduct, and Maintain Credentialing, Privileging and Enrollment Processes (39%)

- Direct the credentialing, privileging, and enrollment processes of practitioners/providers in accordance with regulatory requirements accreditation standards, and organizational policies and procedures to mitigate organizational risk and promote the delivery of safe, quality care.

- Oversee the evaluation of credentialing/privileging requests and evidence of education, training, competence, ability to perform, and experience against established criteria for practitioners/providers to determine eligibility for requested privileges, membership, and/or plan participation.
- Oversee the submission of complete and accurate applications and/or practitioner data/roster to ensure timely approval and maintenance of network participation.
- Collaborate with the organization's medical staff to develop and maintain a facility-specific, criteria-based clinical privileging system for privileged practitioners/providers in accordance with regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, and organizational policies.

### **Ongoing Monitoring And Compliance: Ensure Continuous Adherence to Regulatory Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Organizational Policies and Procedures (37%)**

- Develop and/or maintain applicable governance documents that support and direct organizational practices and that comply with regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, managed care requirements, and organizational policies and procedures.
- Identify, review and report practitioner performance data, complaints, sanctions, adverse actions, and quality of care issues in order to facilitate analysis by the appropriate organizational leadership to enable evaluation of current/ongoing practitioner competency or network participation.
- Facilitate consistent, efficient, and timely investigation, appeals, and due process to comply with an organization's corrective action, fair hearing, and appeals policies as well as applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
- Identify adverse actions taken against a practitioner/provider and appropriately report/notify the necessary authorized agencies, organizational staff, and external organizations in accordance with applicable law and contractual requirements.
- Comply with internal and external requirements related to verifying and reporting the status of practitioner/provider expirables by querying approved sources and recommending action(s) to medical staff and/or organizational leadership based upon bylaws and policies/procedures.

### **Operations Management: Ensure Effective Functioning of Departmental Operations (14%)**

- Prepare, review, and manage operational budget and staffing plans by evaluating financial and performance data to support organizational initiatives.
- Assess, implement, and effectively utilize technology and resources by analyzing the needs of the department in order to manage data with efficiency and integrity to comply with regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, and organizational policies and procedures.

- Oversee the preparation of materials for committees, boards, and other organizational groups in order to maintain an official record of proceedings and decisions, and facilitate follow-up on action items.

### **Organizational Management: Integrate and Collaborate with Others in the Organization on Interdisciplinary Responsibilities to Enhance Effectiveness (10%)**

- Collaborate with others to implement programs, policies, and practices that support practitioner/provider status (e.g., onboarding, changes, off boarding) and compliance with regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, and organizational policies and procedures.
- Develop policies and procedures that govern the efficient management and distribution of practitioner/provider information to internal and external sources in accordance with regulatory requirements, accreditation standards, and organizational policies and procedures

## **2026 CPES CONTENT OUTLINE**

### **Enrollment: Conduct and maintain enrollment according to regulatory requirements and accreditation standards (60%)**

- Analyze information and supporting documentation for completeness and eligibility to enroll in Medicare.
- Analyze information and documentation for completeness in support of Medicare revalidation.
- Perform CMS information maintenance.
- Submit complete and accurate payor applications to ensure timely approval of participation.
- Submit complete and accurate payor recredentialing applications to ensure continued participation.
- Create and maintain CAQH Provider Data Portal accounts.

### **Ongoing Monitoring and Compliance: Ensure continuous adherence to regulatory requirements and accreditation standards (22%)**

- Monitor and review sanctions, complaints, and adverse information to ensure ongoing network participation.
- Comply with requirements of reporting/submitting the status of expirables to applicable entities.

### **Supporting Departmental Operations: Support functions of delegated and non-delegated enrollment (19%)**

- Participate in audits of provider files and operational governance documents.
- Coordinate roster management to ensure timely approval and maintenance of network participation.



## FALL 2026 CPMSM CONTENT OUTLINE

*The CPMSM content outline will be effective starting Fall 2026 testing window.*

### **Credentialing, Privileging, and Enrollment: Develop, manage, conduct, and maintain credentialing, privileging, and enrollment processes in compliance with accreditation standards, federal regulations, and organizational governance documents (40%)**

- Manage the credentialing, privileging, and enrollment processes of practitioners/providers to mitigate risk and promote the delivery of safe, quality patient care.
- Oversee the evaluation of credentialing/privileging requests and evidence of education, training, competence, ability to perform, and experience against established criteria for practitioners/providers to determine eligibility for requested privileges, membership, and/or plan participation.
- Oversee the submission of complete and accurate applications and/or practitioner/provider data to ensure timely approval and maintenance of network participation
- Collaborate with the organization's medical staff to develop and maintain a facility-specific, criteria based privileging process for practitioners/providers.

### **Ongoing Monitoring and Compliance: Ensure continuous adherence to accreditation standards, federal regulations, and organizational governance documents. (36%)**

- Develop and/or maintain applicable governance documents that support and direct organizational practices
- Identify, review, and report practitioner/provider performance data, complaints, and quality of care issues for evaluation of practitioner/provider competency or network participation.
- Identify, review, and report practitioner/provider adverse actions, sanctions, and exclusions, and notify the internal stakeholders and external organizations
- Facilitate investigations, corrective actions, fair hearings, appeals, and due process.
- Comply with internal and external requirements related to verifying and reporting the status of practitioner/provider expirables by querying approved sources and reporting action(s) to organizational leaders

### **Operations Management: Ensure effective functioning of departmental operations in support of the organization. (14%)**

- Prepare, review, and manage operational budget and staffing plans by evaluating financial and performance data to support organizational initiatives.
- Assess, implement, and effectively utilize technology and resources to support the data management needs of the organization in compliance with accreditation standards, federal regulations, and organizational governance documents.

- Oversee the meeting management for committees, boards, and other organizational groups to maintain an official record of proceedings and decisions.

### **Organizational Management: Collaborate with stakeholders to enhance operational effectiveness in compliance with accreditation standards, federal regulations, and organizational governance documents. (10%)**

- Develop, implement, and maintain programs, policies, and practices (e.g., onboarding, offboarding, changes) that support the practitioners/providers.
- Develop, implement, and maintain policies and procedures that govern the management and distribution of practitioner/provider information to internal and external stakeholders.