

The Mid-Level Provider (NP & PA) Credentialing & Enrollment Master Guide

A Practical Blueprint for Collaborative Agreements, Supervision Protocols, Scope of Practice, and Incident-To Billing Compliance

Executive Summary

Integrating Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (NPs, APRNs, CRNAs, CNMs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) into clinical practice expands patient capacity and enhances revenue. However, mid-level credentialing involves strict state-by-state scope of practice rules, collaborative practice agreements, supervising physician reassignments, and distinct billing models (Direct Billing vs. "Incident-To" Billing).

Use this specialized checklist to navigate mid-level licensing, payer enrollment, and supervisory documentation without compliance risks.

Part 1: State Scope of Practice Classification Matrix

Before credentialing a Nurse Practitioner, verify your state's regulatory category:

Nurse Practitioner Practice Authority		
Full Practice	Reduced Practice	Restricted Practice
State practice and licensure law permits all NPs to evaluate, diagnose & prescribe autonomously.	State law limits ability to practice independently; collaborative agreement required for prescribing.	State law requires career-long collaborative or supervisory agreement with a physician to provide patient care and prescribe controlled substances.

Part 2: Step-by-Step Mid-Level Credentialing Checklist

PHASE 1: Legal & State | PHASE 2: Registry & CAQH | PHASE 3: Medicare/Medicaid | PHASE 4:

PHASE 1: State Licensure & Collaborative Practice Setup

PHASE 2: NPI Setup & CAQH ProView Management

PHASE 3: Medicare PECOS & Medicaid Enrollment

PHASE 4: Commercial Payer Contracting & Credentialing

Part 3: Billing Compliance: Direct Billing vs. "Incident-To"

Billing Model Compliance Rules			
Direct Billing (Standard)		"Incident-To" Billing (100% Rate)	
Reimbursement Rate	~85% of Fee Schedule	Reimbursement Rate	100% of Physician Fee Schedule
Physician Presence	Physician NOT required on premises	Physician Presence	Physician MUST be physically present in the office
Patient Type	New & Existing patients / New problems	Patient Type	Established pts with established care plans ONLY

CRITICAL COMPLIANCE WARNING: Never bill an NP/PA service under a physician's NPI as "Incident-To" for a new patient or a new medical condition. Violating this rule constitutes a False Claims Act violation.

Need Professional Mid-Level Credentialing Support?

EXP Credentialing Services manages full credentialing, collaborative agreements, and payer enrollments for NPs, PAs, and CRNAs nationwide.

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