

## DEFINITIONS: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

### (1) Primary Medical Care

- a. **Allopathic (MD) or Osteopathic (DO) Physicians** must have:
- i. Certification in a primary care specialty from a specialty board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association  
- OR -  
Completed a residency program in a primary care specialty, approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association; AND
  - ii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

**Psychiatrists** must meet the qualifications for physicians as listed above, but are required to serve exclusively in mental health HPSAs.

**Physicians** who meet the above residency training and licensure requirements may serve at an approved service site, providing geriatric services, if they have completed discipline-specific advanced training in geriatrics.

- b. **Primary Care Physician Assistants (PAs)** must practice under the supervision of a primary care physician and have:
- i. A certificate of completion or an associate, bachelor's or master's degree from a physician assistant educational program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant at a college, university or educational institution that is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education nationally recognized accrediting body or organization;
  - ii. National certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants; AND
  - iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

The approved primary care practice areas, for Physician Assistants (PA) are adult, family, geriatric, psychiatry, mental health, geriatrics, and women's health.

**PAs** who meet the above education, training and licensure requirements may serve at an approved service site, and provide geriatric services, if they have completed discipline-specific advanced training in geriatrics.

**PAs** who meet the education, training and licensure requirements, and provide mental and behavioral health services, must serve in a designated mental health HPSA

## (2) Primary Nursing Care

- a. **Primary Care Certified Nurse Practitioners (NPs)** must have:
  - i. A master's degree, post master's certificate, or doctoral degree from a school accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, in one of the primary care NP specialties listed below;
  - ii. National certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (formerly the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses), or the National Certification Corporation in one of the primary care NP specialties listed below; AND
  - iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

The approved primary care specialties for NPs are adult, family, pediatric, psychiatric-mental health, geriatrics, and women's health.

**NPs** who meet the education, training and licensure requirements as listed above, may serve at an approved service site, and provide geriatric services, if they have completed discipline-specific advanced training in geriatrics.

**NPs** who meet the education, training and licensure requirements, and provide mental and behavioral health services, must serve in a designated mental health HPSA.

- b. **Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs)** must have:
  - i. A master's degree or post baccalaureate certificate from a school accredited by the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM);
  - ii. National certification by the American Midwifery Certification Board (formerly the ACNM Certification Council); AND
  - iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

## (3) Primary Care Dentistry

- a. **General Dentists** must have:
  - i. A DDS or DMD degree from a program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA); AND
  - ii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

- b. **Pediatric Dentists** must have:
  - i. A DDS or DMD degree from a program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
  - ii. Completed a 2 year training program in the specialty of pediatric dentistry that is accredited by the ADA, CODA; AND
  - iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the state of Delaware.
  
- c. **Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs)** must have:
  - i. Graduated from a 4 year program accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), with a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene  
- OR -  
Graduated from a 2 year dental hygiene training program accredited by the ADA, CODA with a diploma, certificate or associate degree AND have at least one year of experience as a licensed dental hygienist;
  - ii. Successfully passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination; AND
  - iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware

#### (4) Primary Care Behavioral and Mental Health

- a. **Psychiatrists** must:
  - i. Meet the qualifications for physicians (see Allopathic (MD) or Osteopathic (DO) Physicians [see (1)a above]; AND
  - ii. Serve exclusively in mental health HPSAs.
  
- b. **Health Service Psychologists (HSPs)** must have:
  - i. A doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent) directly related to full professional work in clinical or counseling psychology from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, Commission on Accreditation;
  - ii. Passed the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP);
  - iii. The ability to practice independently and unsupervised as a health service psychologist; AND
  - iv. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.
  
- c. **Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs)** must have:
  - i. A master's degree or doctoral degree in social work from a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and affiliated with an educational institution accredited by the U.S. Department of Education nationally recognized accrediting body;
  - ii. Successfully passed the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical or Advanced Generalist licensing exam prior to July 1, 1998, or the ASWB Clinical Exam on or after July 1, 1998;  
- OR -

Successfully passed the LCSW Standard Written Examination and Written Clinical Vignette Examination;

- iii. Completed state required number of years or hours of clinical social work experience under the supervision of a licensed independent social worker and passing the clinical level of the ASWB exam.; AND
- iv. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

d. ***Psychiatric Nurse Specialists (PNSs)*** must have:

- i. A master's degree or higher degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) with a specialization in psychiatric/mental health and 2 years of post-graduate supervised clinical experience in psychiatric/mental health nursing  
- OR -  
A baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing from a program accredited by the NLNAC or CCNE;
- ii. Certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse, Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, or Clinical Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing; AND
- iii. A current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

e. ***Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs)*** must:

- i. Have completed a master's or doctoral program in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) or earned a graduate degree in another mental health field (psychiatry, psychology, clinical social work, psychiatric nursing, etc.) and completed a COAMFTE accredited post-graduate degree clinical training program in marriage and family therapy;
- ii. Have at least 2 years of post-graduate supervised clinical experience as an MFT  
- OR -  
Be a Clinical Fellow member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT);  
- OR -  
Successfully passed the MFT Standard Written Examination; AND
- iii. Have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

f. ***Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs)*** must:

- i. Have a master's degree or higher degree with a major study in counseling from a school accredited by a U.S. Department of Education nationally recognized regional or State institutional accrediting agency;
- ii. Have at least 2 years of post-graduate supervised counseling experience; AND
- iii. Have a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, unrestricted health

professional license to practice in the State of Delaware.

## **DEFINITIONS: PRACTICE SITES**

**Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)** – FQHCs include: (1) nonprofit entities that receive a grant (or funding from a grant) under section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (i.e., health centers); (2) FQHC “Look-Alikes” which are nonprofit entities that are certified by the Secretary of HHS as meeting the requirements for receiving a grant under section 330 of the PHS Act but are not grantees; and (3) outpatient health programs or facilities operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act or by an urban Indian organization receiving funds under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

**FQHC Look-Alike** – Health centers that have been identified by Health Resources and Services Administration and certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as meeting the definition of “health center” under Section 330 of the PHS Act, although they do not receive grant funding under Section 330.

**Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)** – An entity that meets applicable licensing or certification requirements for CMHCs in the state in which it is located and provides all of the following core services: (1) outpatient services, including specialized outpatient services for children, the elderly, individuals who are chronically mentally ill, and residents of the CMHC’s mental health service area who have been discharged from inpatient treatment at a mental health facility; (2) 24 hour-a-day emergency care services; (3) day treatment, or other partial hospitalization services, or psychosocial rehabilitation services; and (4) screening for patients being considered for admission to state mental health facilities to determine the appropriateness of such admission. Effective March 1, 2001, in the case of an entity operating in a state that by law precludes the entity from providing the screening services, the entity may provide for such service by contract with an approved organization or entity (as determined by the Secretary) that, among other things, meets applicable licensure or certification requirements for CMHCs in the state in which it is located. A CMHC may receive Medicare reimbursement for partial hospitalization services only if it demonstrates that it provides such services.

**Public Health Department Clinic** – Primary or mental health clinics operated by a state, county or local health department.

**Immigration Health Service Corps** – Clinical sites administered by the U.S. Immigration, Customs, and Enforcement Agency with the Department of Homeland Security.

**Free Clinic** – A medical facility offering community health care on a free or very low-cost basis. Care is generally provided in these clinics to persons who have lower or limited income and no health insurance, including persons who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. Almost all free clinics provide care for acute, non-emergent conditions. Many also provide a full range of primary care services (including preventive care) and care for chronic conditions.

**Mobile Units/Clinics** – Medical vehicles (e.g., mobile health vans) that travel to underserved rural and urban communities, providing primary care services to individuals located in a HPSA. Clinicians working within a mobile unit that functions as part of an approved site will receive service credit for direct patient care, so long as the mobile unit is affiliated with an approved site and provides services to only the approved HPSA area and/or members of a HPSA.

**School Based Clinics** – For providers working at an approved school based clinic, SLRP requires that the school based clinic is open year round with sufficient patient visits to meet the clinical practice requirements. If the approved site is not open year round, the clinician will be required to work at additional approved site(s) to meet the clinical practice requirements.

**Correctional Facility** – Clinics within state or federal prisons. Clinical sites within county and local prisons are not eligible. Federal prisons are clinical sites that are administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). State prisons are clinical sites administered by the state.

**Solo or Group Private Practice** – A clinical practice that is made up of either one or many providers in which the providers have ownership or an invested interest in the practice. Private practices can be arranged to provide primary medical, dental and/or mental health services and can be organized as entities on the following basis: fee-for-service; capitation; a combination of the two; family practice group; primary care group; or multi-specialty group.  
*As with all other SLRP practice sites, solo or group practice must be a public or private non-profit entity.*

## DEFINITIONS: OTHER

**Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)** – Federally-designated areas that have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups or medical or other public facilities. A list of HPSA designations is available on HRSA's website: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>.

**Primary Health Services** – Means health services regarding family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry, or mental health, that are provided by physicians or other health professionals.

**Primary Health Care Services** – Under section 330(b) of the Public Health Services Act, the term “required primary health services” means:

- i. basic health services which, for the purposes of this section, shall consist of:
  - I. health services related to family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology, that are furnished by physicians and where appropriate, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives;
  - II. diagnostic laboratory and radiologic services;
  - III. preventive health services, including;
    - (aa) prenatal and perinatal services;
    - (bb) appropriate cancer screening;
    - (cc) well-child services;
    - (dd) immunizations against vaccine-preventable diseases;
    - (ee) screenings for elevated blood lead levels, communicable diseases, and cholesterol;
    - (ff) pediatric eye, ear, and dental screenings to determine the need for vision and hearing correction and dental care;
    - (gg) voluntary family planning services;
    - (hh) preventive dental services;
  - IV. emergency medical services; and
  - V. pharmaceutical services as may be appropriate for particular centers;
- ii. referrals to providers of medical services (including specialty referral when medically indicated) and other health-related services (including substance abuse and behavioral health services);
- iii. patient case management services (including counseling, referral, and follow-up services) and other services designed to assist health center patients in establishing eligibility for and gaining access to Federal, State, and local programs that provide or financially support the provision of medical, social, housing, educational, or other related services;
- iv. services that enable individuals to use the services of the health center (including outreach and transportation services and, if a substantial number of the individuals in the population served by a center are of limited English-speaking ability, the services of appropriate personnel fluent in the language spoken by a predominant number of such individuals); and
- v. education of patients and the general population served by the health center regarding the availability and proper use of health services.

**Unencumbered License** – An unencumbered license means a health professions license that is not revoked, suspended, or made probationary or conditional by the State licensing or registering authority as the result of disciplinary action.

**Commercial or Private Student Loans** – Also known as a college loan, an educational loan or an alternative student loan – is a non-government loan made by a private lender specifically for graduate or undergraduate education expenses, such as tuition, room, board, books, and other associated costs. Loans made by banks, credit unions,

savings and loan associations, insurance companies, schools, and other financial or credit institutions which are subject to examination and supervision in their capacity as lenders by an agency of the United States or of the State in which the lender has its principal place of business. These are unsecured loans with various options for repayment and may offer forbearance and deferral options. Loans obtained to cover residency and relocation expenses do not qualify for repayment under the SLRP.

**Qualifying Educational Loans** – Qualifying educational loans are Government and private student loans for actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable educational and living expenses related to the undergraduate or graduate education of the participant that were obtained by the clinician prior to his/her submission of an application to participate in the SLRP. Such loans must be contemporaneous with the education received. Participants will receive funds for repayment of qualifying educational loans that are still owed. If the applicant has a consolidated/refinanced loan that is made up entirely of qualifying educational loans of the applicant, the consolidated/refinanced loan is eligible for repayment. If the applicant has consolidated otherwise qualifying educational loans with any non-qualifying debt, no portion of the consolidated/refinanced loan will be eligible.

**Default of payment obligation** – Being more than 120 days past due on the payment of a financial obligation.

**Default of service obligation** – Failure for any reason to begin or complete a contractual service commitment.

**Teaching** – As defined under the SLRP program, teaching is providing clinical education to students/residents in their area of expertise at the SLRP-approved practice site. The clinical education may: (1) be conducted as part of an accredited clinical training program; (2) include the clinical supervision of a student/clinician that is required in order for that student/clinician to receive a license under state law; or (3) include mentoring that is conducted as part of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) or the Centers of Excellence Program, which are both funded through federal HRSA grants. Teaching must be conducted at the SLRP-approved practice site. If SLRP participant is actually providing the clinical service while a student/clinician observes, the activity should be treated as direct patient care.