

Credentialing Review Process
Standard Three Criteria - Explanation
September 18, 2002

CRITERION 1: THE RISK THAT THE PRACTICE POSES TO THE PUBLIC

The first criterion is the evaluation of risk associated with the practice of the profession or occupation. Risk is defined as the possibility of suffering harm or loss and is synonymous with danger. Both individuals and populations may be placed at risk by the practice of a profession or occupation. Risk is not dependent on direct contact between the practitioner and the consumer of the services. Indirect contact between the practitioner and the consumer of the services, as in the case of workers who deal with environmental contaminants, may also pose a risk for individuals and/or populations.

CRITERION 2: THE POTENTIAL FOR SELF-PROTECTION BY THE CONSUMERS OF THE SERVICES OF THE OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION

The second criterion is the evaluation of the potential for self-protection on the part of the consumers of the services of the profession or occupation. The intent of this evaluation is not to judge the consumer, but rather to evaluate the impact of the characteristics of the consumers on the practice of the profession or occupation. Potential for self-protection is defined as the extent to which the consumer is able to recognize when he/she is susceptible to harm and/or is liable to succumb to persuasion or temptation. Factors that influence potential for self-protection as it pertains to a profession or occupation include the ability of the consumer to: (1) fully comprehend the terminology and procedures of a profession or occupation in order to make informed decisions regarding receipt of services, (2) evaluate the effectiveness of treatment or services, (3) know when to seek additional or alternative services, and (4) sense the need for or the effects of services.

CRITERION 3: DEGREE OF INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION

The third criterion is the evaluation of the degree of independent judgment associated with the profession or occupation. The degree of independent judgment associated with a profession or occupation is a measure of the extent to which the practitioner can legally make decisions related to the modality of therapy or type of service that will be provided. Some professions or occupations with a limited scope of practice may have independent judgment within their scope of practice while other professions or occupations may be required to work under direction of another practitioner and have a lesser degree of independent judgment.