

Board Meeting
March 10, 2010

ROLL CALL

DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO TWO VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL
COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE MEMBERSHIP AND
THE GRANTING OF CLINICAL PRIVILEGES TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL
STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL

Action: Delegate Authority to Approve Membership and the Granting of Clinical Privileges to Members of the Medical Staff of the University of Illinois Hospital

Funding: No New Funding Required.

This Board item relates to the requirement by the accrediting entity, the Joint Commission, of Board involvement in the granting of clinical privileges to members of the Medical Staff.

Background

The Joint Commission (“Commission”) is the principal accrediting organization for the University of Illinois Hospital (“UIH”). The Commission is a private sector, U.S.-based not-for-profit organization. The Commission operates accreditation programs for a fee to subscriber hospitals and other healthcare organizations. The Commission accredits over 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

According to the Commission, approximately 88 percent of the nation's hospitals are currently accredited by the Commission. A majority of state governments have come to recognize accreditation by the Commission as satisfying the conditions of participation for the receipt of Medicaid reimbursement. Additional benefits of being an accredited hospital include:

- organizing and strengthening patient safety efforts;
- improvements in risk management and risk reduction;
- periodic on-site independent reviews, measured against established accreditation standards;
- recognition by insurers and other third-party payors; and,
- “deemed” status for purposes of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

Specifically with respect to the “deemed” status for purposes of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, in order for a hospital to participate in and receive payment from the Medicare and Medicaid programs, it must meet detailed eligibility requirements for program participation, including a certification of compliance with the conditions of participation or standards, as set forth in federal regulations. Since 1965, hospitals with Commission accreditation have been “deemed” to meet the Medicare hospitals’ conditions of participation. In November 2009, the Commission’s current hospital “deeming” authority was extended through July 15, 2014.

As described below, among the Commission’s accreditation standards are requirements related to a hospital’s organized Medical Staff and how decisions are made

to determine what clinical privileges an individual clinical practitioner may have and exercise in the hospital. The UIH Medical Staff Bylaws, which are approved by the Board of Trustees, establish the privileging process. Pursuant to the Bylaws, every potential member of the UIH Medical Staff has her/his training and experience reviewed by her/his respective department head before an offer is extended to become a member of the UIH Medical Staff. If an offer is made and accepted, the clinical practitioner completes an application package for the Medical Staff that includes training, work experience, and malpractice experience. Each department reviews the package before recommending the candidate for Medical Staff membership to the Credentials Committee of the Medical Staff. The Medical Staff Office reviews the application for completeness and does primary source verification of licensure, practice, and training information. Criminal background checks and review of the federal exclusions lists are also performed for each applicant.

Following completion of background checks, only then is the application considered by the Credentials Committee. A thorough review of each applicant's file is made by the Credentials Committee, including letters of recommendation from outside sources as well as malpractice experience. The applicant's clinical privilege request is reviewed in light of her/his training. The Credentials Committee then acts on the application by rejecting it, accepting it, or sending it back to the appropriate department with questions. Those approved by the Credentials Committee are forwarded to the

Medical Staff Executive Committee as the duly constituted governance body of the Medical Staff.

Following UIH Medical Staff Executive Committee approval, Commission accreditation requirements specify that the approval of membership to the Medical Staff and the granting of clinical privileges (other than certain limited exceptions for granting temporary or emergency clinical privileges) may only be made by the hospital's "governing body." [Source: Joint Commission Accreditation Standard MS 06.01.07, EP#7, Governing Body Approval of Privileges.] In the case of UIH, the governing body is the University's Board of Trustees. The Commission, however, permits initial appointments to membership and granting of privileges, as well as reappointments to membership or renewal or modification of privileges, to be delegated by the governing body to a committee of at least two voting members of the governing body. [Source: Joint Commission Accreditation Standard MS 06.01.11, Governing Body Approval of Privileges.]

Prior to the reorganization of the Board of Trustees in August/September 2009, two Board members, namely the Chair and Vice Chair of the Hospital Committee of the Board, reviewed and approved appointments to the UIH Medical Staff and the granting of clinical privileges.

Accordingly, it is requested that the Board approve and confirm delegating the authority to approve membership to the Medical Staff and the granting of clinical privileges to any two voting members of the Hospital Committee. Members of the

Hospital Committee are familiar with Hospital operations and will be more readily available to timely act on applications for membership and the granting of clinical privileges, which typically occur on a monthly basis throughout the year. As the Board does not meet monthly, two voting members of the Hospital Committee can better meet the needs of the Hospital to make such decisions on a timely basis each month as applications are processed.

It is therefore recommended the Board approve delegating such authority to any two voting members of the Board who are members of the Board's Hospital Committee.

Action Requested

The Chancellor at Chicago recommends that the Board authorize any two voting members of the Board of Trustees who also are members of the Board's Hospital Committee to act on recommendations from the UIH Medical Staff Executive Committee, or as may otherwise be permitted or contemplated by the UIH Medical Staff Bylaws with respect to UIH Medical Staff membership, the granting of clinical privileges, reappointments to membership to the UIH Medical Staff, and the renewal or modification of clinical privileges.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, the General Rules Concerning University Organizations and Procedures*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs with this recommendation.