Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE CRITERIA FOR UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL AND CLINICS MEDICAL STAFF PRIVILEGES, CHICAGO

**Action:**  Delegate Authority to Approve Criteria for University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics Medical Staff Privileges

**Funding:**  No new funding required

This item relates to the requirements of the accrediting entity, The Joint Commission, placed upon the Board of Trustees toapprove, based on the recommendation of the organized medical staff, criteria that will be considered in the decision to grant, limit, or deny a practitioner’s requested medical staff privilege.

The Joint Commission is the principal accrediting body for the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics (Hospital). The Joint Commission is a private sector, U.S.-based, not-for-profit organization that operates accreditation programs for a fee to subscriber hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Across the U.S., The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 22,000 healthcare organizations and programs. 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.

With regard to the last benefit, 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 as set forth in federal regulations. Since 1965, hospitals with Joint Commission accreditation have been “deemed” to meet the Medicare hospitals’ conditions of participation.

As described below, among The Joint Commission’s accreditation standards are requirements related to a hospital’s leadership structure and the governing body’s responsibilities and required actions for the conduct of the hospital. In the case of the Hospital, the governing body is the Board of Trustees (Board). The Joint Commission requires that a hospital governing body, based on the recommendation of the organized medical staff**,** approve criteria that will be considered in the decision to grant, limit, or deny a requested privilege.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Medical Staff Credentials Committee will recommend criteria that will be considered in the decision to grant, limit, or deny a requested privilege, including qualifications related to education, training, and competence at both initial appointment and reappointment. As this relates to the responsibilities of the governing body of the Hospital, once recommended by the Hospital’s medical staff, the criteria require approval by the Board.

Delegating the final approval to the Medical Staff Executive Committee (MSEC) would allow a nimbler approach by medical staff members with particular familiarity with healthcare issues and provider qualifications. The members of the MSEC are familiar with hospital operations and provider qualifications and will be more readily available to review and act in timely fashion on recommended criteria, which occur periodically. Once the criteria are developed and approved, all decisions to grant, limit, or deny privileges require the approval of the Board, or as delegated to two voting members of the University Health System Committee (UHS Committee) pursuant to a delegation by the Board in 2010 concerning the Hospital’s medical staff credentialing and privileging decisions. Accordingly, it is requested that the Board approve and confirm delegating the authority to approve criteria that will be considered in the decision to grant, limit, or deny a requested privilege described above to the MSEC.

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the concurrence of the vice chancellor for health affairs, Chicago, recommends that the Board authorize the MSEC to act on recommendations from the medical staff and Credentials Committee, or as may otherwise be permitted or contemplated, to approve criteria that will be considered in the decision to grant, limit, or deny a requested privilege.

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 of Illinois System concurs.

1. Source: Joint Commission Accreditation Standard MS 06.01.07, EP #2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)