

## Directory Definitions

### Credentialing/Re-credentialing

Credentialing is the initial process used by Saint Mary's Health Plans to review and evaluate the qualifications of a licensed independent practitioner prior to their provision of services to members. It is a rigorous process that involves primary source verification of licensure, education, certifications and other relevant information. Saint Mary's Health Plans credentials their practitioners at least every 36 months and conducts ongoing monitoring of practitioners between recredentialing cycles.

### Licensure

Licensure is the process by which a state admits physicians and other healthcare providers to the practice of medicine or their particular healthcare field. Licensure ensures that the provider has the appropriate education and training and that they abide by recognized standards of professional conduct. Saint Mary's Health Plans contracted medical groups/providers have responsibility for ensuring their physicians and other healthcare providers are appropriately licensed.

You may check the status of a physician's license at the following websites:

<http://medboard.nv.gov/default.asp> (M.D. physician)  
<http://nvboo.glsuite.us/glsuiteweb/homeframe.aspx> (D.O. physician)

### Primary Care Practitioner (PCP)

A PCP is a physician who provides basic healthcare services. Members must select a PCP to coordinate and oversee their healthcare services. Members may select their PCP from the following primary care specialties: family practice, general medicine, internal medicine or pediatrics. Adult female members may self-select an obstetrician/gynecologist as their secondary PCP. This secondary PCP does not replace the PCP's responsibility related to the member's total healthcare. Although members may receive services from nurse practitioners and physician assistants, these allied health professionals are not available as PCPs.

### Additional Provider Information

For more information about a provider, such as educational background, number of years in practice and experience performing certain procedures, please call Saint Mary's Health Plans Member Services Department at 775-770-6060 or 800-863-7515, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.