



Confirm whether a 'designated verification source' is legit

Published: April 16, 2003

The JCAHO now allows hospitals to accept credentials information provided by an organization that is designated by a primary source as its agent (e.g., a medical school allows the National Student Clearinghouse to verify MD and DO degrees on its behalf). But don't assume that every Web site or telephone hotline that claims to provide credentialing data is legitimate.

Confirm with the primary source (i.e., the medical school, licensing board, etc.) that it has indeed authorized the agency in question to provide credentialing information on its behalf. Get that confirmation in writing, either in letter form, or print out the disclaimer on the agency's Web site.

Even though JCAHO standards do not require you to obtain written confirmation, it's a wise precaution considering the vastness of the Internet. If you don't use a legitimate designated source, it could mean trouble with the JCAHO down the road.



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