§ 485.70 Personnel qualifications.

This section sets forth the qualifications that must be met, as a condition of participation, under §485.58, and as a condition of coverage of services under §410.100 of this chapter.

(a) A facility physician must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who—

(1) Is licensed under State law to practice medicine or surgery; and

(2) Has had, subsequent to completing a 1-year hospital internship, at least 1 year of training in the medical management of patients requiring rehabilitation services; or

(3) Has had at least 1 year of full-time or part-time experience in a rehabilitation setting providing physicians’ services similar to those required in this subpart.

(b) A licensed practical nurse must be licensed as a practical or vocational nurse by the State in which practicing, if applicable.

(c) An occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant must meet the qualifications in §484.4 of this chapter.

(d) An orthotist must—

(1) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable;

(2) Have successfully completed a training program in orthotics that is jointly recognized by the American Council on Education and the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics; and

(3) Be eligible to take that Board’s certification examination in prosthetics.

(g) A psychologist must be certified or licensed by the State in which he or she is practicing, if that State requires certification or licensing, and must hold a masters degree in psychology from and educational institution approved by the State in which the institution is located.

(h) A registered nurse must be a graduate of an approved school of nursing and be licensed as a registered nurse by the State in which practicing, if applicable.

(i) A rehabilitation counselor must—

(1) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable;

(2) Hold at least a bachelor’s degree; and

(3) Be eligible to take the certification examination administered by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

(j) A respiratory therapist must complete one of the following criteria:

(1) Criterion 1. All of the following must be completed:

(i) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable.

(ii) Have successfully completed a nationally-accredited educational program for respiratory therapists.

(iii) Be eligible to take the registry examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care for respiratory therapists; or

(B) Have passed the registry examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care for respiratory therapists.

(2) Criterion 2. All of the following must be completed:

(i) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable.

(ii) Have equivalent training and experience as determined by the National Board for Respiratory Care.

(k) A respiratory therapy technician must—

(1) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable;

(2) Have successfully completed a training program accredited by the Committees on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA) in collaboration with the Joint Review
Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education; and
(3) Either—
   (i) Be eligible to take the certification examination for respiratory therapy technicians administered by the National Board for Respiratory Therapy, Inc.; or
   (ii) Have equivalent training and experience as determined by the National Board for Respiratory Therapy, Inc.
(l) A social worker must—
   (1) Be licensed by the State in which practicing, if applicable;
   (2) Hold at least a bachelor’s degree from a school accredited or approved by the Council on Social Work Education; and
   (3) Have 1 year of social work experience in a health care setting.
(m) A speech-language pathologist must meet the qualifications set forth in part 484 of this chapter.

§ 485.74 Appeal rights.
The appeal provisions set forth in part 498 of this chapter, for providers, are applicable to any entity that is participating or seeks to participate in the Medicare program as a CORF.

§ 485.603 Rural health network.
A rural health network is an organization that meets the following specifications:
(a) It includes—
   (1) At least one hospital that the State has designated or plans to designate as a CAH; and
   (2) At least one hospital that furnishes acute care services.
(b) The members of the organization have entered into agreements regarding—
   (1) Patient referral and transfer;
   (2) The development and use of communications systems, including, where feasible, telemetry systems and systems for electronic sharing of patient data; and
   (3) The provision of emergency and nonemergency transportation among members.
(c) Each CAH has an agreement with respect to credentialing and quality assurance with at least—
   (1) One hospital that is a member of the network when applicable;
   (2) One QIO or equivalent entity; or
   (3) One other appropriate and qualified entity identified in the State rural health care plan.

§ 485.604 Personnel qualifications.
Staff that furnish services in a CAH must meet the applicable requirements of this section.
(a) Clinical nurse specialist. A clinical nurse specialist must be a person who—
   (1) Is a registered nurse and is licensed to practice nursing in the State in which the clinical nurse specialist services are performed in accordance with State nurse licensing laws and regulations; and
   (2) Holds a master’s or doctoral level degree in a defined clinical area of nursing from an accredited educational institution.
(b) Nurse practitioner. A nurse practitioner must be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the State, who meets the State’s requirements governing the qualification of nurse practitioners, and who meets one of the following conditions: