

## Required Participation Start Date FAQs

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Although OHA is making steady progress on implementing the Oregon Common Credentialing Program (OCCP), we have decided to delay the required participation start date. Required participation in the Oregon Common Credentialing Program (OCCP) had been set to begin November 5, 2018. This requirement has now been postponed. Below, you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions about the OCCP and how our program timing may affect you.

### **What's the Oregon Common Credentialing Program?**

The OCCP, which is mandated by SB 604 (2013), establishes a program and database for credentialing organizations to access the information necessary to credential or re-credential all health care practitioners in the state. The OCCP is intended to simplify the administrative processes related to credentialing, reduce burden on practitioners, and eliminate duplication for credentialing organizations.

### **Who is required to participate?**

Health care practitioners who must be credentialed are required to participate in the OCCP. Credentialing organizations must also participate and use the information available in the OCCP system. Credentialing organization definitions are available in [Oregon Administrative Rule 409-045-0025 \(7\)](#).

Practitioners who work on patients in a health care facility and are reimbursed by health plans and are credentialed would be impacted by these rules. Credentialing is the standardized process of inquiry undertaken by credentialing organizations (such as health plans, hospitals, and others) to validate specific information that confirms a health care practitioner's identity, background, education, competency and qualifications related to a specific set of established standards or criteria.

### **What is the status of Program implementation?**

We're currently in the system testing phase of OCCP, which is designed to test the fully built system and ensure it meets our requirements and performance standards. Because this phase is taking longer than initially planned and because we understand the need for proper onboarding time, the November 5, 2018 required start date has been postponed.

Once the system passes OHA system testing requirements and performance standards, OHA will:

1. Conduct user acceptance testing with stakeholders as planned.
2. Allow multiple months of early adoption, where real users with real data use the system from end-to-end and provide feedback. Early adopters will not only make sure the system is working well, but will share their experience with program integration and workflow changes. We expect this phase to begin in 2018.
3. Announce a new program launch date. Following a successful early adoption phase, we will announce a new start date with at least six months of lead time to allow practitioners and organizations to make changes to their current credentialing processes.

**I heard the program was going to launch in November 2018 – what changed?**

In January 2018, OHA announced a November 5, 2018 mandatory launch date via a temporary rule. Since that time, two things have happened:

1. We're currently in the system testing phase of OCCP, which is designed to test the fully built system and ensure it meets our requirements and performance standards. This phase is taking longer than initially planned, and we are committed to entering user acceptance testing with a system that works well.
2. Over the last several months, program stakeholders have expressed to OHA leadership that they want us to take the time necessary to get the program and launch right. Stakeholders have emphasized the system must be fully tested and ready before their participation is required. They have also requested adequate time to prepare for changes to their current credentialing processes.

Due to those factors, we have decided to postpone the required start date until the pilot phase demonstrates the program is successful.

**When is the new start date?**

The new start date has yet to be determined, but will not be in 2018. OHA will set a new start date after the system is thoroughly piloted by actual users. OHA will announce the new start date with at least six months of lead time to allow practitioners and organizations to make changes to their current credentialing processes. The pilot phase will begin later in 2018.

**How will I know when a new start date was announced?**

OHA is committed to ensuring you have the latest information available. OHA will announce the new start date in the following ways:

- The OCCP website, which you can find at [oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-OCCP](http://oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-OCCP)
- Via the OCCP email list serve, which you can sign up for at [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=ORDHS\\_435](http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=ORDHS_435)
- By rule, which will include public notice
- Through broad outreach via our partner organizations, associations, and health care regulatory boards.

**For more information:** Contact us at [credentialing@state.or.us](mailto:credentialing@state.or.us) or visit our website at [oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-OCCP](http://oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-OCCP)