

CREENTIALING ESSENTIALS
FOR 2026

Payer enrollment continues to evolve, with plans tightening documentation requirements and extending response times. Even small inaccuracies—an outdated address, missing signature, or un-attested CAQH profile—can stall an application for weeks.

As we enter 2026, practices should review provider data, confirm CAQH is current, and prepare enrollment documents early for any new hires. With timelines running 60–120 days, proactive planning protects your billing readiness and prevents costly delays. A strong start now means fewer denials and smoother onboarding in the months ahead.

Recipe:
Chocolate Protein Crispy
Treats



Directions

- Step 1 - Mix the nut butter, sweetener, vanilla, protein powder, and salt until smooth. Gently heat, then pour over the cereal and stir very well, making sure to coat all of it.
- Step 2 - Form into balls or line a pan with wax paper and spread the mixture evenly into the pan.
- Step 3 - Place a sheet of wax paper on top, then press down as firmly as you can. Really press it down!
- Step 4 - Freeze for at least a half hour before slicing.

Ingredients

- 3 c. puffed rice cereal (whole grain or gluten free if desired)
- 2 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2/3 c. nut butter of choice
- 1/2 c. honey or agave
- 1/4 c. chocolate protein powder
- Melted chocolate
- Freeze-dried strawberries



COMPLIMENTARY
CONSULTATION
AVAILABLE

Happy Early Spring!

Introducing Our New Service Line for Clients

We are excited to announce the launch of a new service line designed to enhance our offerings for potential clients. While we have always managed and maintained provider and group information with insurance companies, we now provide comprehensive reviews of your group, facility, and provider participation across various product lines.



Key Features of Our New Service Line

Comprehensive Participation Review

We analyze your current participation status with various insurance products, ensuring that your organization is consistent for all providers.

Recredentialing Management

Request recredentialing dates helps prevent lapses in coverage, ensuring that your providers remain in-network and eligible for reimbursements.

Data Updates and Accuracy

We assist in updating information on file with insurances, including:

- Location updates: Ensure that all facility addresses are accurate.
- Provider rosters
- Insurance portals such as Availity
- CAQH profiles: Keep your credentials current to facilitate smooth enrollment processes.
- NPI numbers: Verify and update National Provider Identifier numbers as needed.

Consultative Approach

By acting as your consultant, we offer strategic advice tailored to your unique needs, helping you navigate the complexities of insurance enrollments and maintenance.

Understanding Contract Types

A clear understanding of the types of contracts you hold is essential for an efficient enrollment process. For example, if you have individual contracts for each provider rather than a group contract, payment structures may vary significantly among providers. To promote consistency and optimize reimbursement, a group contract may be beneficial.

By conducting a thorough review of your status with each insurance provider, we ensure that you are positioned to receive the best possible reimbursement rates. While we do not review contracts or pricing directly, we can provide insights into your setup for enrollment and re-enrollment, which are critical to maintaining an efficient workflow.

Understanding your contract type can also impact the timeline for adding new providers to your organization, making this review an invaluable step in your administrative process.

Importance of Contract Types

Understanding the distinctions between group and individual contracts is critical:

Group Contracts vs. Individual Contracts

- **Group Contracts:** Generally provide a unified payment structure and can simplify the enrollment process for multiple providers, which can lead to more consistent revenue streams
- **Individual Contracts:** May lead to varied payment rates and conditions for each provider, potentially complicating financial management.

Impact on Revenue

The type of contracts you have can significantly influence reimbursement rates, cash flow, and overall financial health.

With 1st Credentialing, you can now leverage our expertise not only for enrollments and maintenance but also as a strategic consultant for your organizational needs. You can focus more on patient care rather than administrative burdens.

—HEIDI HENDERSON, FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL

BACKLOG SUPPORT: YOUR WINTER SAFETY NET

Winter is one of the heaviest enrollment seasons. Provider onboarding, staff turnover, and payer portal changes can quickly overwhelm in-house teams, creating backlogs that impact both operations and cashflow.

1st Credentialing offers immediate, flexible backlog support to help practices regain control. Whether you're juggling a few outstanding enrollments or facing a full-scale surge, our specialists step in to prepare applications, resolve CAQH issues, manage follow-ups, and keep your timelines moving.

Consider us an extension of your office—ready when you are, and here to keep your workflow uninterrupted during the busiest time of year.



WHY HUMAN EXPERTISE STILL MATTERS IN AN AI WORLD

Automation can assist with reminders and tracking, but payer enrollment still relies heavily on human interpretation and persistence. Every payer has its quirks: portal freezes, specific signature rules, unique document formats, and multi-step escalation paths.

A seasoned enrollment specialist understands these nuances and can spot potential issues long before they become delays. In an AI-driven era, it's the combination of smart tools and experienced human oversight that leads to faster approvals and smoother onboarding. Expertise remains the engine behind successful enrollment.

YOUR DEDICATED ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Consistency matters. At 1st Credentialing, every client is paired with a dedicated specialist who knows their providers, practice structure, timelines, and payer history.

Instead of navigating call centers or rotating support teams, you work with one expert who manages your entire enrollment process from start to finish. They prepare documentation correctly, ensure CAQH is updated, anticipate payer issues, and keep communication clear and timely.

This continuity doesn't just reduce stress—it shortens approval times and strengthens your overall administrative efficiency.