

What is a Qualified Health Professional (QHP), clinical staff member?

In 2013 the American Medical Association (AMA) established a definition for a Qualified Health Care Professional (QHP) in terms of which providers may report services:

A “physician or other qualified health care professional” is an individual who is qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable), and facility privileging (when applicable) who performs a professional service within his/her scope of practice and independently reports that professional service.”

These professionals are distinct from “clinical staff”. A clinical staff member is a person who works under the supervision of a physician or other qualified health care professional and who is allowed by law, regulation and facility policy to perform or assist in the performance of a specified professional service but who does not individually report that professional service.

These include:

- Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA)
- Certified Nurse Mid-Wife (CNM)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Certified Nurse Mid-Wife (CNM)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Clinical Social Worker (CSW)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Physician Assistant (PA)
- Physical Therapist (PT)
- Other potential QHPs: Athletic Trainer, Dietitian

A clinical staff member is a person who works under the supervision of a physician or other qualified health care professional and who is allowed by law, regulation and facility policy to perform or assist in the performance of a specified professional service, but who does not individually report that professional service.

Clinical staff includes medical assistants, licensed practical nurse, etc. Other policies may also affect who may report specific services.