



## Qualifications of Health Care Professionals

**A**t least one member of the foster care agency's health care management team must be a pediatrician, family medicine physician, pediatric or family nurse practitioner, or registered nurse with pediatric experience. It is assumed that the health care professionals on the health care management team have the skills necessary to perform the tasks outlined in Chapter 5.

### **Other Health Care Professionals**

The professionals listed in this chapter must have training or experience in all aspects of the foster care system, understand the impact of foster care on children and adolescents, be willing and able to work with foster care agencies, and provide required documentation and reports in a timely manner. They also should be familiar with the guidelines and parameters as set forth in this manual.

### ***Primary Care Physician***

A well-qualified primary care physician who agrees to be the medical home provider for children and adolescents in foster care will

- Be a board-certified pediatrician or family physician or a pediatric or family nurse practitioner.
- Be experienced in providing comprehensive primary care for infants, children, and adolescents.
- Have experience in the areas of child abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.
- Have experience with developmental and behavioral issues of infants, children, and adolescents.

- Have experience in family dynamics and its effects on children and adolescents and the effect of foster care placement on children and families.
- Participate in continuing medical education focusing on the special needs of infants, children, and adolescents in foster care.
- Demonstrate training or expertise in the area of foster care.
- Work collaboratively and cooperatively with caseworkers and legal professionals on behalf of children and adolescents in foster care.

### ***Developmental and Mental Health Care Professionals***

A well-qualified developmental or mental health care professional for children and adolescents in foster care is responsible for performing the developmental or mental health evaluation. Such health care professionals include

- Board-certified physicians experienced in providing developmental and mental health care services including developmental and behavioral pediatricians, child neurologists, child and adolescent psychiatrists, and general psychiatrists with special expertise in the emotional problems of children and adolescents\*
- Licensed clinical psychologists with special expertise in the area of emotional problems of children and adolescents\*
- Nurse practitioners or certified advance practice nurses with certification in child and adolescent psychiatry\*
- Certified social workers with special expertise in the area of emotional problems of children and adolescents\*

*\*Any of these individuals may serve as the care coordinator for the developmental or mental health agency for a child or adolescent in foster care.*

Other members of the team may include

- Speech and language pathologists (master's level or above) with training or experience in child speech pathology
- Special education diagnosticians (master's level or above)

- Physical and occupational therapists with training or experience in the motor problems of children
- School psychologists (master's level or above)
- Certified family therapists
- Certified arts therapists (eg, art, music, dance)
- School social workers (master's level or above)

### ***Health Care Professionals for the Evaluation of Physical and Sexual Abuse***

A well-qualified health care professional for the assessment of physical and sexual abuse will

- Be a board-certified pediatrician or family physician or pediatric nurse practitioner trained and experienced in physical and sexual abuse.
- Be recognized by peers as skilled or an expert in the field.
- Function within a specialized clinic or center for child abuse assessment and evaluation or its equivalent.

### ***Subspecialty Physicians***

All subspecialty physicians must be board-certified and experienced in providing subspecialty care to children and adolescents. When possible and appropriate, subspecialty physicians should be board-certified in pediatrics.