Alphabet Soup of Provider Credentialing

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Why is Credentialing Important?

- Patient Safety
- Build practice base
  - Allow for discounted amounts
- Direct link to managed care systems

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Credentialing Timeline

- In general, the timeline for approval of credentialing applications is **30-180 days**, dependent upon the following:
  - Type of insurance carrier
  - Type of application
  - Type of physician
    - e.g., a physician new to the area, graduating resident or fellow
  - Change in provider status
    - e.g., switching EIN but remaining in same geographical area

- Consequences to untimely credentialing include
  - Loss of revenue
  - Inability to maintain practice base

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Credentialing Definitions

NPI	National Provider Identifier	Entity Type 1 Individual Entity Type 2 Organization Unique 10-digit ID number for covered health care providers Issued by National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)
PTAN	Provider Transaction Access Number	Medicare-only number issued to providers by Medicare (Medicaid) contractors upon enrollment to Medicare Provider's current legacy number with Medicare
CAQH UPD (CAQH)	Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare Universal Provider Database	Online provider data-collection service Standard electronic form that meets the needs of nearly every health plan, hospital, and other healthcare organization 5 Steps: Registering; Completing the UPD Online Form; Authorizing UPD-participating Plan Access to the information; Verifying data entry/ Attesting; Submitting supporting documentation
EIN (FEIN)	Federal Employer Identification Number Federal Tax Identification Number	Unique 9-digit number assigned by the IRS Used for employment tax reporting and Identification (TIN)
PECOS	Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System	Electronic Medicare enrollment system Used for initial Medicare enrollment, revalidation, and change in enrollment
NPPES	National Plan & Provider Enumeration System	Administered by CMS System for applying for & receiving NPI Database for searching for an provider's NPI

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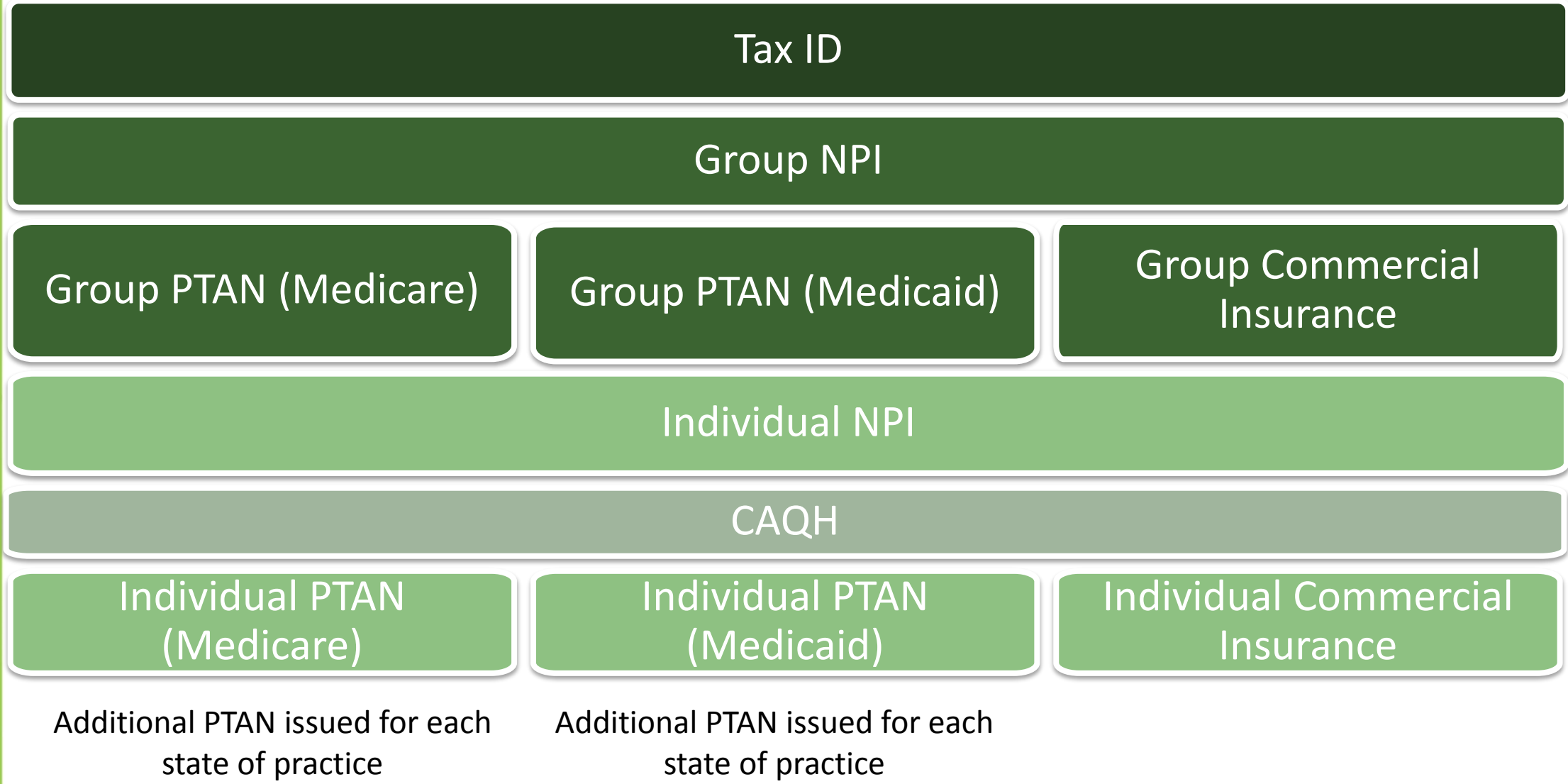
Credentialing Process



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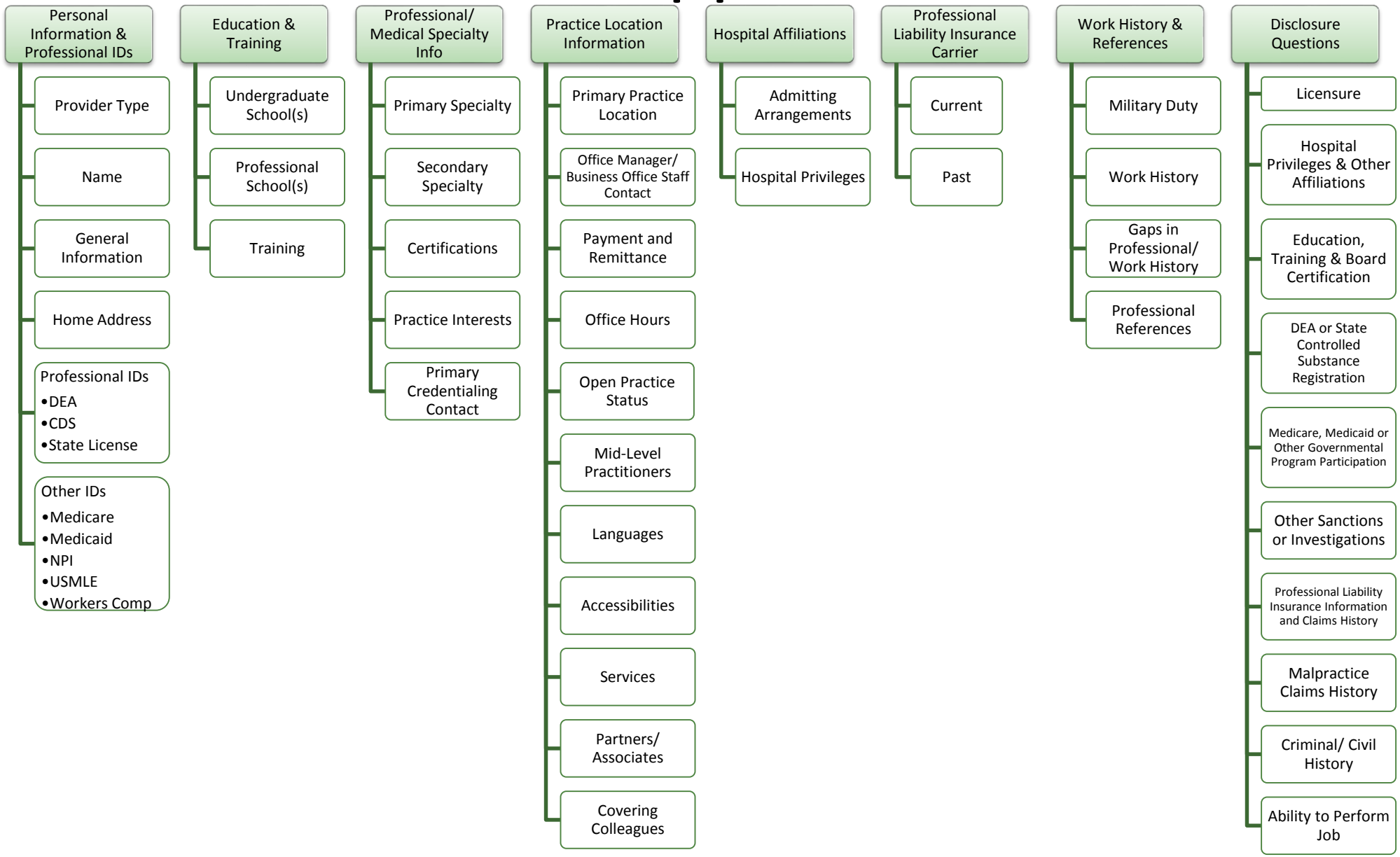
CAQH Application



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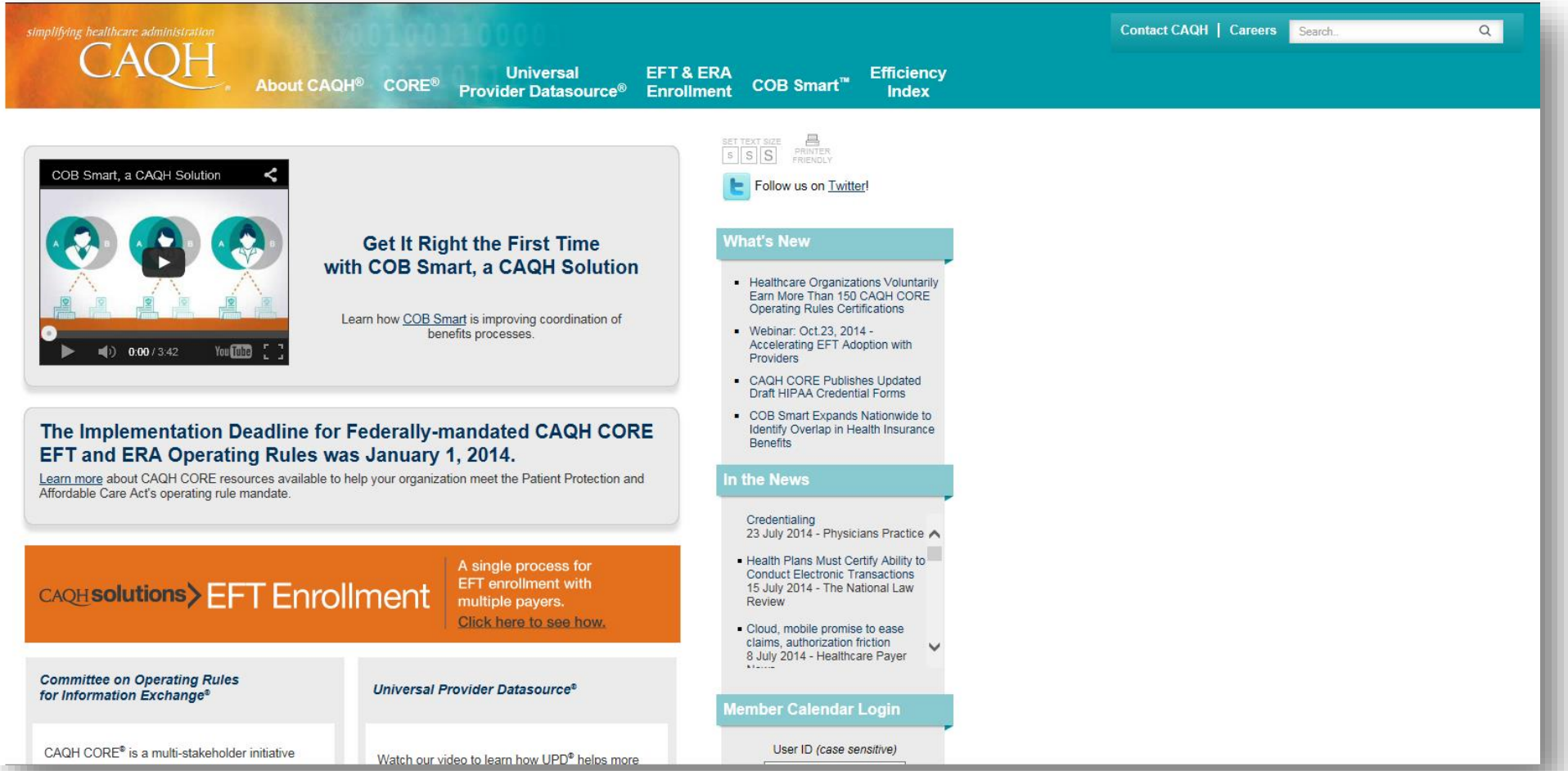
Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare

www.CAQH.org



Members of CAQH

Aetna
America’s Health Insurance Plans
AultCare
BlueCross BlueShield Association
BlueCross BlueShield of Michigan
BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Cigna
Health Net
Horizon BlueCross BlueShield of New Jersey
Kaiser Permanente
UnitedHealth Group
WellPoint

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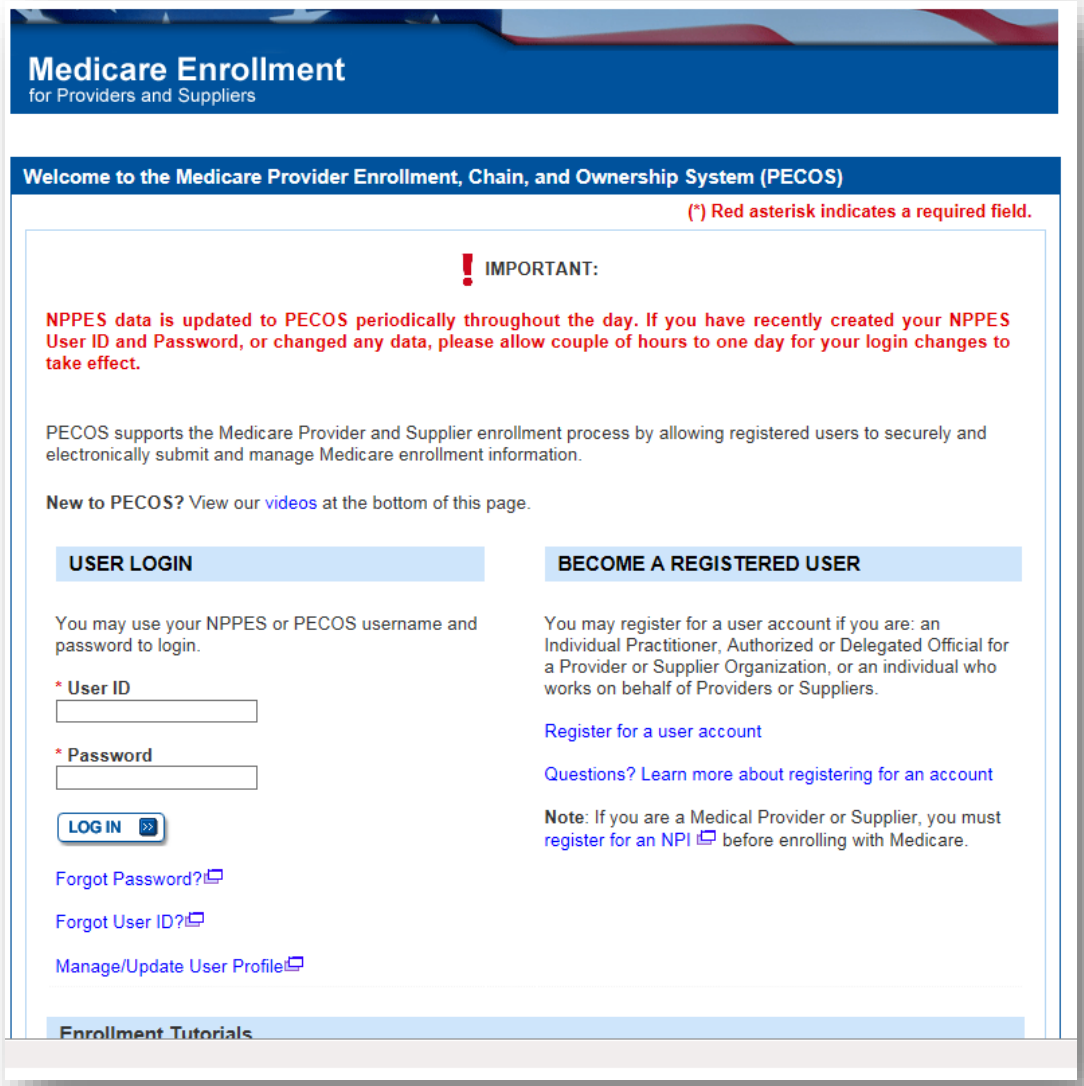
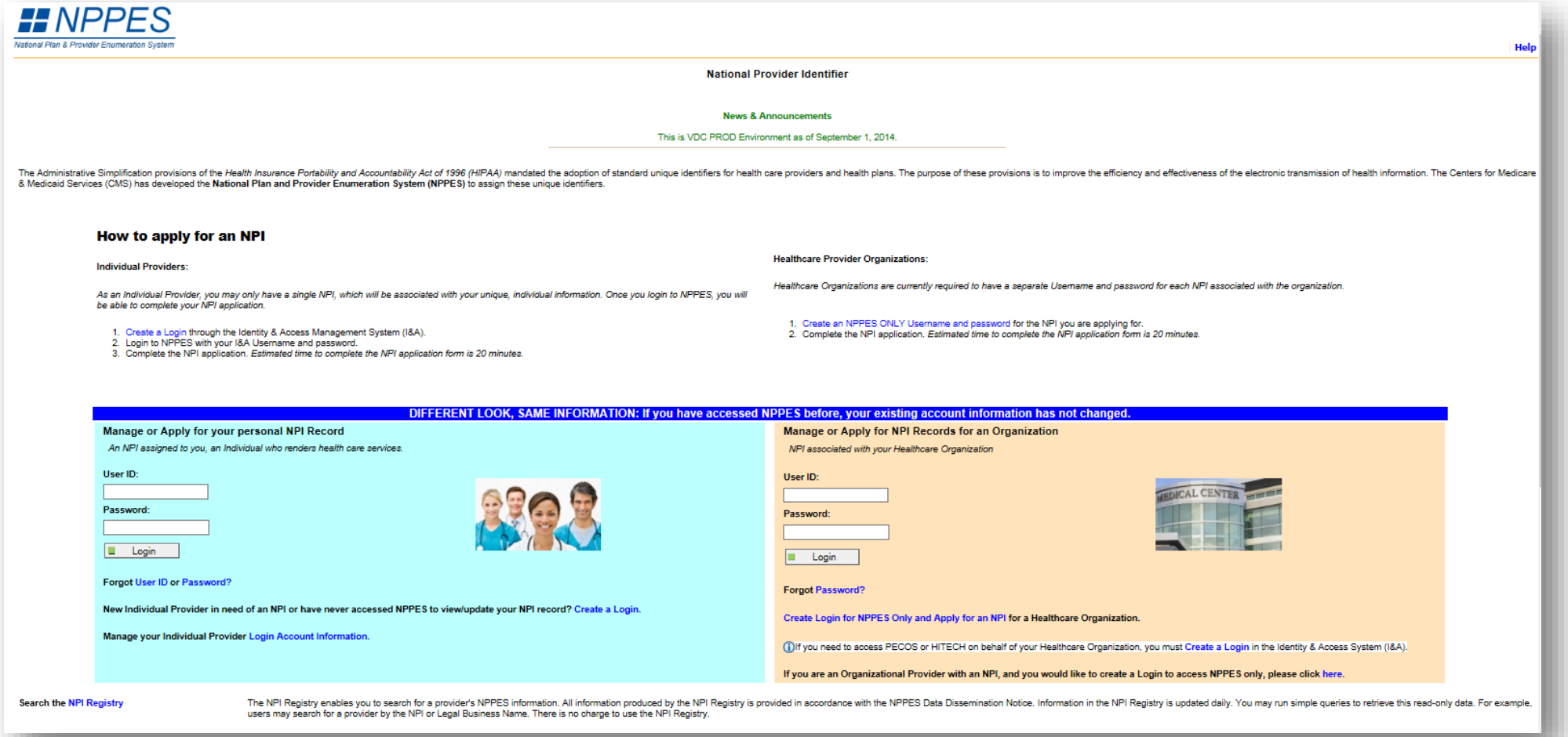
PECOS

https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov



NPPES

https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov



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