NCQA Corrections, Clarifications and Policy Changes to the 2026 CR-PN Standards and Guidelines

March 30, 2026

This document includes the corrections, clarifications and policy changes to the 2026 Credentialing and Provider Network standards and guidelines. NCQA has identified the appropriate page number in the publication and the standard/element head and subhead for each update. Updates have been incorporated into the Interactive Review Tool (IRT). NCQA operational definitions for correction, clarification and policy changes are as follows:

- A *correction (CO)* is a change made to rectify an error in the standards and guidelines.
- A *clarification (CL)* is additional information that explains an existing requirement.
- A *policy change (PC)* is a modification of an existing requirement.
- A *regulatory change (RC)* is a new requirement or a modification of an existing requirement to align with federal regulations.

An organization undergoing a survey under the 2026 standards and guidelines must implement corrections and policy changes within 90 calendar days of the IRT release date, unless otherwise specified. The 90-calendar-day advance notice does not apply to clarifications or FAQs, because they are not changes to existing requirements.

Page	Standard/Element	Head/Subhead	Update	Type of Update	IRT Release Date
65	CR 1, Element F	Scope of review	Revise the Scope of review to read: NCQA reviews the organization's policies and procedures that are in place throughout the look-back period. *For factors 2 and 3,* NCQA also reviews reports or materials demonstrating the organization's security mechanisms for protecting and recovering credentials data. If the organization outsources data recovery and backup, NCQA reviews an executed contract describing the contracted entity's security mechanisms for data protection and recovery.	CL	3/30/26
128	CRA 5, Element A	Explanation—Factor 3	Add the following as the first paragraph under the "Factor 3: Sources for licensure sanction, limitations and expiration information" subhead: The organization monitors sanctions and licensure limitation information for all states in which the practitioner practices, even if those states are outside the organization's service area or are not states where the practitioner provides care to the organization's members.	PC	3/30/26
180	CRC 12, Element B	Explanation—Factor 3	Add the following as the first paragraph under the "Factor 3: Sources for licensure sanction, limitations and expiration information" subhead: The organization monitors sanctions and licensure limitation information for all states in which the practitioner practices, even if those states are outside the organization's service area or are not states where the practitioner provides care to the organization's members.	PC	3/30/26
1-3	Appendix 1—Standard & Element Points		Revise the points for CRC 10 and CRC 11 to read as follows:	CO	3/30/26

Revise the points for CRC 10 and CRC 11 to read as follows:

CRC 10: Processing Application and Attestation *(file review)*									
A	Processing Application/Attestation *(file review)*	NA	NA	NA	4	2	0	4	2	0

CRC 11: Application and Attestation Content									
A	Contents of the Application	NA	NA	NA	4	2	0	4	2	0