California's AB 1199 Extends Medical Staff Reappointment Cycles to Every Three Years

Insights 10.02.26

California's Assembly Bill 1199 (AB 1199), effective January 1, 2027, extends the permissible interval for routine medical staff reappointments and competency reviews from two years to three years and prohibits the California Department of Public Health from requiring more frequent routine reappointments. The legislation amends key provisions of the Business and Professions Code and Health and Safety Code, aligning California's credentialing requirements with prevailing federal and accreditation standards. Health facilities and their medical staffs should review their governing documents to determine whether amendments are appropriate to make use of the new three-year reappointment cycle and reduce administrative burdens while maintaining quality of care and patient safety.

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As of January 1, 2027, AB 1199 will extend the permissible interval for routine medical staff reappointments from every two years to every three years, and prohibit state regulators from requiring hospitals to conduct routine reappointments more frequently than every three years. The changes are intended to reduce administrative burdens on health facilities and medical staffs while preserving ongoing review of practitioner competence and clinical privileges.

AB 1199 amends three key statutory provisions. First, it revises Business and Professions Code section 2282(a), which previously required hospital medical staff appointments of physicians on an "annual or biennial basis," to instead permit reappointments "at least every three years." Second, the bill revises Business and Professions Code section 2453(f) by extending the minimum interval for medical staff members to demonstrate competency to perform surgical and other procedures from "every two years" to "every three years." Third, the bill adds subdivision (e) to Health and Safety Code section 1275.6, which expressly prohibits the California Department of Public Health from requiring hospitals to undertake routine reappointments more frequently than every three years.

As the bill's author noted, AB 1199 modernizes California law to reflect current federal and accreditation standards, including the three-year cycles permitted by The Joint Commission and DNV Healthcare USA. The bill passed the Legislature with overwhelming support, and the Governor signed it on September 30, 2026. Because the Legislature enacted the bill at a regular session, AB 1199 will go into effect on January 1 of next year.

Health facilities and their medical staffs should take this opportunity to review their governing documents, including bylaws and credentialing policies. Organizations that currently conduct routine reappointments on a two-year cycle may wish to consider whether transitioning to a three-year cycle would reduce administrative burden while maintaining controls to uphold quality of care and patient safety. Because AB 1199 authorizes, but does not require, a three-year reappointment interval, any change will generally require appropriate amendments to applicable medical staff documents.

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