

Certification or Registration as a Peer Recovery Specialist is voluntary.

An individual may support another person's recovery (peer support) with or without Certification or Registration. An employer may choose the qualifications, certification or registration of peer supporters they hire. It will be important for non-certified, non-registered roles to exist so that individuals may collect the experience they need to become certified or registered.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) has the authority to certify individuals as Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. This authority was given in the 2016 Virginia Appropriations Act.

Certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist (**CPRS**) in Virginia is obtained from the Virginia Certification Board. Application, requirements and instructions can be found on the VCB Webpage.
<http://www.vacertboard.org/applications.html>

Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (**RPRS**) services may be billed to Medicaid. If you wish for your qualified employer to be able to bill Medicaid for your services as of July 1, 2017, you must meet the requirements to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist.

It is anticipated that the Board of Health Professions will gain the authority to Register Certified Peer Recovery Specialists during the 2017 General Assembly. It will be necessary for people to be registered with the Department of Health Professions Board of Counseling (DHP-BOC) for their services to be billed to Medicaid by qualified Medicaid providers.

Currently, your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist (RPRS) will be held with (DBHDS) and will be transitioned to the DHP-BOC after emergency regulations are issued in 2017.

The description below outlines the anticipated pathways for Certification and Registration for Peer Recovery Specialists in Virginia.

How to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist

- 1) **VIRGINIA CERTIFICATION BOARD (April 2015-December 31, 2016)**
 - a) If you were certified by VCB (Virginia Certification Board) as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist(CPRS) between April 16,2015 and December 31, 2016
 - b) **Then** you are eligible to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist. Your qualified employer may begin billing Medicaid for your services effective July 1, 2017
 - c) **Additional Responsibilities:**
 - i) Maintain Certification with VCB
- 2) **VIRGINIA CERTIFICATION BOARD (On or after January 1, 2017)**
 - a) **IF** you are certified by VCB on or after January 1, 2017,
 - b) **Then** you are eligible to be a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist. Your qualified employer may begin billing Medicaid for your services effective July 1, 2017
 - c) **Additional Responsibilities:**
 - i) Maintain Certification with VCB
 - ii) **To maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist you must take DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training by July 1, 2018.** *(This applies to candidates from other States that have reciprocity with VCB)*

3) VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

- a) **IF** you are, on or after January 1, 2017, certified as a Peer Recovery Specialist by the Veteran’s Administration
- b) **Then** you are eligible to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist. Your qualified employer may begin billing Medicaid for your services effective July 1, 2017
- c) **Additional Responsibilities:**
 - i) Maintain your current Certification through the VA, or Certify with the Virginia Certification Board
 - ii) Document 20 Hours continuing education over 2 years in the domains listed in this document
 - iii) **To maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist you must take DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training by July 2018.**

4) NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

- a) **IF** you currently, as of January 1, 2017, hold a National Mental Health, Substance Abuse or Family Peer Support Certification that meets DBHDS Standards
- b) **Then** you are eligible to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist. Your qualified employer may begin billing Medicaid for your services effective July 1, 2017
- c) **Additional Responsibilities:**
 - i) Remain in good standing with your current certification
 - ii) Document 20 Hours continuing education over 2 years in the domains listed in this document
 - iii) **To maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist you must take DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training by July 2018.**

5) OTHER STATES

- a) **IF** you are currently, on or after, January 1, 2017, certified by another State that meets DBHDS Standards
- b) **Then** you are eligible to become a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist if your certification is in good standing. Your qualified employer may begin billing Medicaid for your services effective July 1, 2017
- c) **Additional Responsibilities:**
 - i) Abide by DBHDS Code of Ethics
 - ii) To maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist you must document 20 hours of continuing education in the domains listed.
 - iii) **To maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist you must take DBHDS Peer Recovery Specialist Training by July 2018.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION DOMAINS:

You will need to have and be able to show documentation of 20 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain your status as a Registered Peer Recovery Specialist

Understanding the Peer Support Role and what makes it unique	Delivering Peer Services within Agencies and Organizations
Understanding the Recovery Process	Trauma and its Impact on Recovery
Mental Health and Addiction Recovery pathways	Community Resource Navigation
Current research in MH and SA Recovery	Peer Support Role in Crisis Intervention
Peer Support Ethics and Boundaries	Cultural Sensitivity and Practice
Basic Principles Related to Health and Wellness	Employment Support for individuals in Recovery

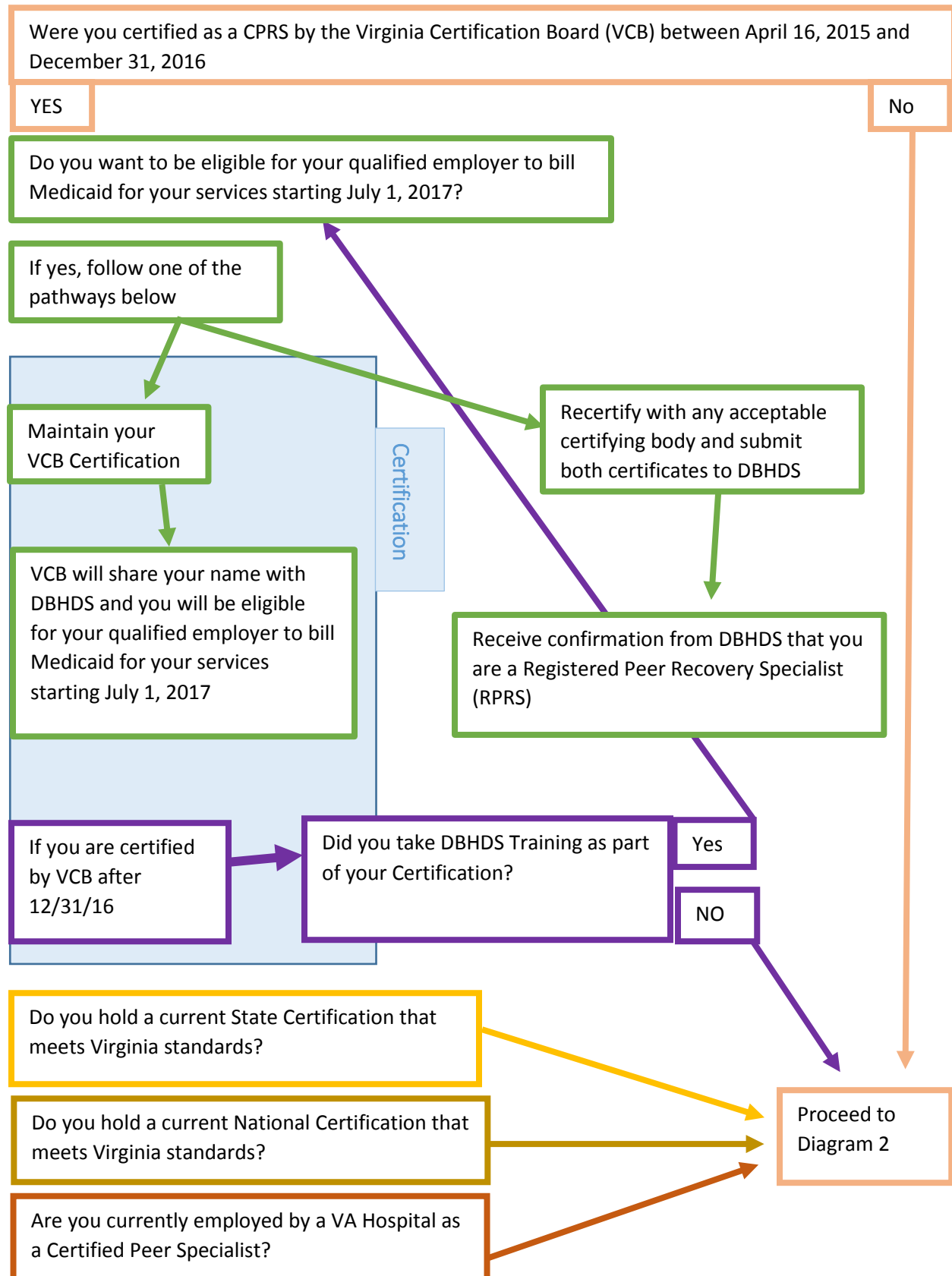
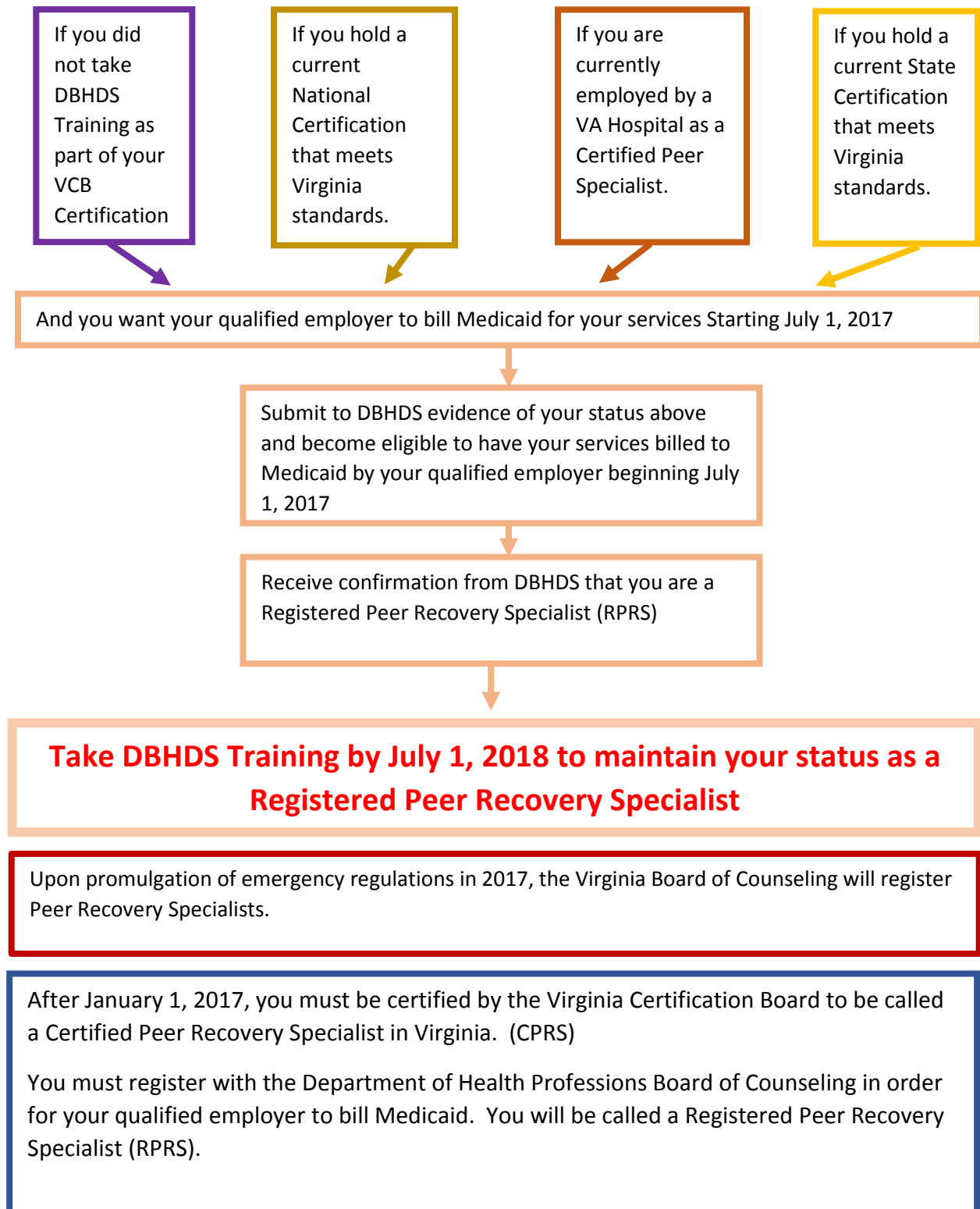


Diagram 2



DBHDS Standards for National or Other States Certification

National or State Peer Recovery Specialists certification that will be recognized by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services will minimally contain these standards

- A. A signed code of ethics**
- B. An affidavit of one year of recovery**
- C. A Certification Examination**
- D. Equivalent of 20 hours every two years continuing education requirement**
- E. 46 or more hours of training in the listed domains to qualify for certification**
 - 1. Understanding the Peer Support role and what makes it unique**
 - 2. Understanding the Recovery Process**
 - 3. Mental Health and Addiction recovery pathways**
 - 4. Current research in MH and SA Recovery**
 - 5. Peer Support Ethics and Boundaries**
 - 6. Basic Principles Related to Health and Wellness**
 - 7. Delivering Peer Services within Agencies and Organizations**
 - 8. Trauma and its impact on Recovery**
 - 9. Community Resource Navigation**
 - 10. Peer Support Role in Crisis Navigation**
 - 11. Cultural Sensitivity and Practice**
 - 12. Employment Support for individuals in Recovery**

For questions, please contact

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