

The “Approved List Method”: Saving Regulator Resources, Improving Compliance, and Reducing Perceived Bias

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Introduction:

Many regulators have made a simple change when mandating remedial courses by employing an "approved list method" (i.e., maintaining a list of approved remedial courses).

This method accomplishes important goals:

- Saves staff resources by obviating case-by-case approvals
- Improves the timely compliance of licensees
- Avoids the appearance of bias by not specifying a single course provider

Definitions:

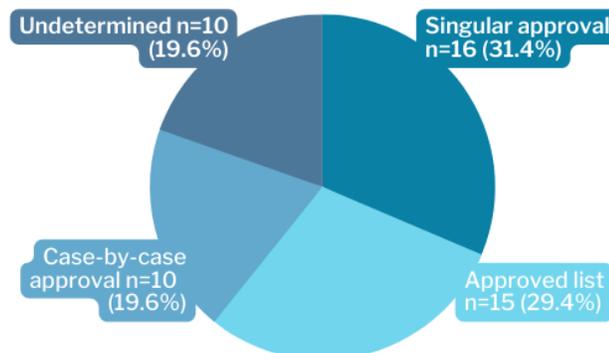
Approved list method (Recommended): When mandating licensees to complete a remedial course, either provide them with a list of pre-approved remedial courses or, alternatively, name two or more approved remedial courses directly in their order.

Singular approval method: When mandating licensees to complete a remedial course, provide them with the name of only one remedial course.

Case-by-case approval method: Mandating licensees to complete remedial coursework without providing specific options.

Data:

PBI Education inventoried 51 US medical regulators for their referral practices and found them to use the following methods of ordering remedial courses:



Advantages:

Efficient use of staff time

- Reduces the need for staff training on the approval process
- Reduces case-by-case approval and back-and-forth communication with licensee/their attorney

Improved licensee compliance

- Faster, more efficient course enrollment process
- Licensee “buy-in” to the educational process due to being given a choice
- Mitigation of licensee concerns of discussion between regulator and education provider

Reduced perception of bias or discrimination

- Eliminates perception of bias or conflict of interest regarding one education provider
- Fair practices for consistent application of sanctions to all licensees
- Eliminates the potential for inconsistent approval methods and standards

Conclusions:

Through more than 20 years of remediation, PBI Education offers its observations about how orders for remedial education are written. The "approved list method" is described with the intention that it may streamline regulatory processes, ensure consistency, reduce workload on burdened administrative staff, improve licensee compliance with mandated remedial education, and reduce any perception of bias.