



To: HHS Board
From: Meghan Walsh, MD Chair, Medical Executive Committee
Date: December 8, 2025
Re: Credentials Committee Monthly Report

This month's Credentials Committee report is typical in that standard credentialing process for Hennepin Healthcare System has been followed. The credentialing process begins with an application by a current or prospective medical staff member; the application is reviewed and verified by a credentialing specialist who flags notable items for review. The file is then reviewed and recommended for appointment by the Department Chair and the Credentials Committee. At the Credentials Committee level, two committee members conduct an in-depth review of each new applicant, and one committee member reviews each reappointment file. The committee members report to the larger group, which includes President of the Medical Staff and an Assistant Hennepin County attorney specializing in malpractice litigation. The group determines if the candidate will be recommended to the Medical Executive Committee and the HHS Board.

The Credentials Committee is forwarding the following issue(s) for review.

Ely, John, MD – Initial Application, Department of Internal Medicine

The committee discussed the following issue(s) for this applicant:

Issue: Dr. Ely reported a malpractice settlement of \$450,000 made in 1997.

Credentials Committee Discussion:

- The committee thoroughly reviewed and discussed the information provided in the file.
- The total settlement for the case was \$2,850,000.00 with \$450,000 settled on behalf of Dr. Ely. The patient's resulting vegetative state was the primary factor leading to the settlement.
- In 1997, an out-of-court settlement of was paid in a case stemming from a 1991 emergency C-section at Western Missouri Medical Center where Dr. Ely was serving as the attending physician in the Emergency Department.
- During surgery, the attending anesthesiologist was unable to intubate the patient after multiple attempts, resulting in severe hypoxia and clinical deterioration. Dr. Ely, serving as the ED attending physician, was called to assist, attempted intubation without success due to the patient's difficult airway anatomy. The patient was ultimately successfully intubated by a respiratory therapist; however, they experienced cardiac arrest, and both the patient and fetus sustained severe hypoxic brain injury. The infant later died.
- This malpractice settlement involved an airway management procedure that is no longer within Dr. Ely's requested or proposed scope of practice at HHS. The duties in the palliative care role do not include airway management.
- Dr. Ely's peers have recommended him for practice at HHS without reservation.
- Dr. Galloway-Gilliam, Vice Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, has thoroughly reviewed the file and supports the appointment of Dr. Ely.

Credentials Committee Conclusion & Recommendation:

- After a thorough review and thoughtful discussion of the information provided, the committee supports the approval of the initial application and 3-year appointment of Dr. Ely.