

What Happens After Your Joint Commission Review

Your on-site review is an important part of the certification decision-making process. During the on-site review, your reviewer uses the tracer methodology and other review techniques to identify and document areas of non-compliance with Joint Commission standards. The summary of review findings provided to you at the conclusion of your on-site review is confidential and does not contain a certification decision. Your final certification decision is not reached until the conclusion of the post-review activities described in this document.

Post-Review Activities

- At the Exit Conference, the review team will review the preliminary findings they identified during the review. The reviewers do not recommend and are not able to predict your organization's certification decision. The certification decision is not made until all of your organization's post-review activities are completed.
- The certification review team will electronically transmit its summary of review findings to The Joint Commission within 48 hours.
- Your organization's summary of review findings will undergo a comprehensive review by The Joint Commission's Central Office staff.
- Following the completion of the comprehensive review, your organization's final summary of review findings will be posted to your organization's "Joint Commission Connect" extranet site. The summary will indicate which findings require an Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) submission within 45 days or 60 days.
- Once your organization's ESC is accepted by The Joint Commission, your certification decision is posted to your "Joint Commission Connect" extranet site and to Quality Check (www.qualitycheck.org).
- If following review by The Joint Commission's Central Office, your organization's review findings meet a decision rule for Conditional Certification (CÔ) or Preliminary Denial of Certification (PDÔ), your organization will receive detailed instructions outlining the next steps in the certification process. These instructions will be delivered to you via your "Joint Commission Connect" extranet site, and will be posted in conjunction with your report. Decisions of Conditional Certification and Preliminary Denial of Certification are not posted to Quality Check until the decisions are finalized by the Certification Committee.

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Resources

“The Joint Commission Connect” extranet includes four informative documents. Using your login and password, refer to the “Post Survey” section and review:

- Evidence of Standards Compliance
- Measure of Success
- Publicity Kit
- Reviewer Evaluations

Definitions of Joint Commission terms are in the Glossary in the back of your Certification Standards Manual.

Contact

Please direct questions to Gail Weinberger, Director, Accreditation and Certification Policy and Administration; and Assistant to the Executive Vice President for Accreditation and Certification Operations, at 630-792-5766.

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What's New in 2009

This year, many of the changes emanating from the Standards Improvement Initiative (SII), that began in 2006, will be implemented. The manuals were reorganized and the scoring and decision processes were refined. Also, as a result of SII, some changes have been made to the review process:

- Your organization's summary of review findings looks different.
- The summary will not include a certification decision.
- There is no longer a Supplemental Findings section in the summary of review findings. All findings of less than full compliance require resolution via submission of Evidence of Standards Compliance.
- Review findings will be organized by standards chapter.

You can find out more about SII and changes to the standards, scoring and certification decision processes, and the review process in the Certification Standards Manual.