

# The Joint Commission

## And Their Role in Assessing the Quality of Home Care Services



### Who is The Joint Commission?

The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization established over 50 years ago. The Joint Commission is the world leader in evaluating the quality and safety of care delivered in over 15,000 healthcare organizations across the country—from home health, durable medical equipment, and oxygen providers to hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, outpatient clinics, and behavioral health centers.

The Joint Commission is governed by a board that includes physicians, nurses, and consumers. The Joint Commission sets the standards by which health care quality is measured in America—and around the world.

### How does a home care organization become Joint Commission accredited?

To earn and maintain accreditation, a home care organization undergoes an extensive on-site review by a select team of Joint Commission surveyors such as home health nurses, rehabilitation technologists, respiratory therapists, or DME professionals at least once every three years. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the organization's performance in areas that affect patient care.



Through an assessment of a company's procedures and visits with its patients and staff, the company is evaluated and scored. Accreditation may then be awarded based on how well the organization met Joint Commission standards.

### What does Joint Commission accreditation of my home care facility mean to me?

Because its standards are regarded as the most rigorous in the industry, companies who choose to be evaluated by The Joint Commission are therefore committed to providing the highest level of quality care to their patients. The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ is a clear sign that the company has demonstrated compliance to the most stringent standards of performance.

### How can I find out how well an organization did on their survey or if it is accredited?

A list of Joint Commission accredited companies and their survey results are posted in the "Quality Check"™ section of The Joint Commission website at [www.qualitycheck.org](http://www.qualitycheck.org). You can also call the Joint Commission's Customer Service Department directly at 630-792-5800 for additional information.



*Look for The  
Joint Commission  
Gold Seal of Approval™  
when selecting your  
home health provider.*