



Eligibility Overview

Organizations seeking accreditation are required to meet eligibility requirements as defined by The Joint Commission.

There are 3 main eligibility requirements:

- 1) General requirements (those that apply regardless of the specific type of home care service your company provides).
- 2) Minimum number of “active” patients at the time of survey
- 3) Program-specific requirements (only certain types of home care services are eligible for accreditation with us).

1) General requirements

All the following requirements must be met:

- The organization is in the United States or its territories or, if outside the United States, is operated by the U.S. government, or under a charter of the U.S. Congress
- The organization assesses and improves the quality of its services. This process includes a review of care by clinicians, when appropriate.
- The organization identifies the services it provides, indicating which services it provides directly, under contract, or through some other arrangement
- The organization provides services addressed by the Joint Commission’s standards

2) How many patients do I need to have to be eligible for Joint Commission accreditation?

For a particular service to be eligible it must be considered “active.”

- Active service is defined as having provided, one or more services, as described below, to 10 or more patients during the 12 months prior to the on-site survey; **AND**,
- Having a minimum of two active patients, on service, at the time of survey.

To participate in the Joint Commission Home Health and Hospice Deemed Status survey, the organization must meet *both* the Joint Commission and Medicare (CMS) eligibility:

- For organizations seeking HOME HEALTH DEEMED STATUS, CMS requires that skilled nursing services, and at least 1 other therapeutic service, must have been provided to a minimum of 10 patients and 7 patients must be receiving care at the time of the survey.

3) What types of services are eligible for home care accreditation with The Joint Commission?

Home Health Services

Home health services involve the provision of any health care services by health care professionals to a patient in his or her place of residence. These services include, but are not limited to, performance assessments; provision of care, treatment, or counseling; and/or monitoring of the patient's health status by nurses (both intermittent skilled and private duty), occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, social workers, dietitians, dentists, physicians, and other licensed health care professionals in the patient's home. It also includes the extension or follow-up of health care services provided by hospital professional staff in the patient's home.

Personal Care and/or Support Services

Personal Care and/or Support Services involves the provision of assistance because of a health-related condition with personal care, activities of daily living, or management of household routine by paraprofessional staff to a patient in his or her home. These services include the provision of services by home health aides, personal care aides, home attendants, nursing assistants, companions, and homemakers.

Hospice

Hospice is an organized program that consists of services provided and coordinated by an interdisciplinary team to meet the needs of a patient who is diagnosed with a terminal illness and has a limited life span. The program specializes in palliative management of pain and other physical symptoms, meeting the psychosocial and spiritual needs of the patient and the patient's family, use of volunteers, and provision of bereavement care to survivors. Hospice includes, but is not limited to, all programs licensed as hospices and Medicare-certified hospice programs. All services provided by the hospice (for example, pharmacy, home medical equipment services) and care provided in all settings (for example, inpatient, nursing home) are included.

Deemed Status Option for Home Health and Hospice

Through a specific survey option with The Joint Commission, the home health agency or hospice organization can achieve deemed status, and not be required to undergo a separate Medicare survey from the State agency. The deemed status option is one way of combining compliance activities and reducing duplicative regulatory surveys.

Home Medical Equipment (HME) Services

To be eligible for Joint Commission accreditation for HME services, your organizations must provide durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and/or supplies (DMEPOS) to patients either directly in their place of residence or through the mail. Organizations are also eligible for HME accreditation if they bill Medicare Part B DMEPOS, regardless of where the services are provided.

Clinical Respiratory Services

These are defined as the provision of health care services by respiratory therapists and/or other health care professionals to patients in their place of residence, and in conjunction with the provision of HME by the same organization. This includes, but is not limited to, performing assessments and testing, administration of treatment, medication administration, provision of clinical education, and/or monitoring of the patient's respiratory status.

Rehabilitation Technology

Rehabilitation technology services may be provided as a stand-alone service or as a component of home medical equipment services. These services enhance the lifestyle of physically challenged individuals through the sale and rental of custom medical equipment and ongoing evaluation by trained rehabilitation technologists. These services include, but are not limited to, those related to customized mobility systems, seating and positioning systems, and adaptive equipment (for example, aids to daily living, artificial speech, hearing, and visual devices). These services may be provided in the patient's home, rehabilitation clinics, schools, or the home care organization's facility.

Pharmacy Services

Pharmacy Services involve the provision of pharmaceutical care and services involving the preparation and dispensing of medications, medication-related devices, and supplies by a licensed pharmacy, with or without the provision of clinical or consultant pharmacist services. These services include, but are not limited to, pharmacy services provided to a patient in his or her home, long term care pharmacy services, and ambulatory infusion as defined below; but it specifically excludes community pharmacy practice.

Pharmacy Dispensing Services

These services involve the dispensing of medications, medication-related supplies and equipment, and other related services by a

licensed pharmacy. These services also include the provision of the professional services of a pharmacist as a component of the dispensing process to ensure appropriate and safe medication use (for example, prescription review, medication profile review, patient counseling) as mandated by law and regulations and by standards of practice.

Clinical/Consultant Pharmacist Services

These services involve the provision of professional care and services by a qualified pharmacist to optimize outcomes of medication therapies and minimize the adverse effects of medications. These services include, but are not limited to, assessment of the appropriateness of medication orders, the ongoing evaluation and review of the patient's medication regimen and pharmacy care plan, the ongoing monitoring of medication effects in individual patients, the provision of drug information, oversight of the medication use process to improve patient safety, and other related cognitive medication-related services.

Long Term Care Pharmacy Services

These services involve the provision of pharmacy dispensing services to patients residing in a nursing home or another long term care facility where regular nursing care is provided.

Freestanding Ambulatory Infusion Services

These services involve the dispensing and administration of drug therapy by infusion or inhalation, as well as related services, under the supervision of a licensed health care professional (for example, a nurse) to ambulatory patients in a room or an office at a home care organization site that is not an extension of a physician's office or hospital or part of a larger ambulatory home care organization.