

# Joint Commission Accreditation and Certification

- More than 22,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States are accredited or certified by The Joint Commission

## What's the difference between accreditation and certification?

**Accreditation** can be earned by an entire health care organization, for example, hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory care centers, office-based surgery practices, home care providers and laboratories.

**Certification** is earned by programs or services that may be based within or associated with a health care organization. For example, a Joint Commission-accredited medical center can have Joint Commission-certified programs or services for diabetes or heart disease care. These programs could be within the medical center or in the community.

Both accreditation and certification require an evaluation by The Joint Commission. The evaluation covers compliance with the standards and other requirements and verifies improvement activities. After earning accreditation or certification, health care organizations receive The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval®, a mark of quality.

## What are the accreditation programs?

- [Ambulatory Care Accreditation](#)
- [Behavioral Health Care Accreditation](#)
- [Critical Access Hospital Accreditation](#)
- [Home Care Accreditation](#)
- [Hospital Accreditation](#)
- [Laboratory Services Accreditation](#)
- [Nursing Care Center Accreditation](#)
- [Office-Based Surgery Accreditation](#)

## What are the certification programs?

- [Advanced Certification in Disease-Specific Care](#)
- [Advanced Certification for Palliative Care](#)
- [Behavioral Health Home Certification](#)
- [Disease-Specific Care Certification](#)
- [Health Care Staffing Certification](#)
- [Integrated Care Certification](#)
- [Primary Care Medical Home Certification for ambulatory care facilities](#)
- [Primary Care Medical Home Certification for hospitals](#)

The Joint Commission

# FACT SHEET

## Read more

- Benefits of [accreditation](#) and [certification](#)
- [Standards](#) and [Survey process](#)
- [Contact us](#)