Eligibility Requirements
Expanded to Accommodate Small Homes for Nursing Care Center Accreditation

Effective immediately, The Joint Commission has expanded the eligibility requirements for its nursing care center program to better accommodate small homes. The expansion of the eligibility requirement addresses a unique category of organizations that meet all criteria for nursing care center accreditation except for the current minimum required number of patients and/or residents served.

This new eligibility requirement (underlined in the following box) applies to organizations seeking initial accreditation. This revision will be reflected in the fall 2018 E-dition® update and will be published in the 2019 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Nursing Care Centers.

Questions regarding this new eligibility requirement may be directed to Nursing Care Center Accreditation, Business Development.

**Nursing Care Center Eligibility Requirements**

Any health care organization may apply for Joint Commission accreditation if all the following requirements are met:

- The organization is in the United States or its territories, or if outside the United States, is owned or operated by the US government or under a charter of the US Congress.
- The organization assess and improves the quality of its care, treatment, and/or services. This process includes a review by clinicians, when appropriate.
- The organization identifies the health care services it provides, indicating which care, treatment, and/or services it provides directly, under contract, or through some other arrangement.
- The organization provides services address by The Joint Commission’s standards.
- The organization meets parameters for the minimum number of patients or residents required for organizations seeking Joint Commission accreditation for the first time—that is, five patients or residents served, with at least two active at the time of survey. For small homes with up to 18 beds, the minimum number of patients or residents required for organizations seeking accreditation for the first time is three, with at least two active at the time of survey.

* Organizations that are new to The Joint Commission include those that have never been surveyed by The Joint Commission or have not been accredited for at least four months.