What is Accreditation?

Accreditation evaluates an organization’s operational systems critical to the safety and quality of patient care.

Why Accreditation?
- Validate quality of care and reinforce risk management efforts
- Nationally acknowledged benchmark of quality
- Experienced surveyors offer valuable insights and compliance tips
- Eases access to managed care contracts and encourages patient referrals
- Enhances ability to attract and recruit quality staff
- Increases competitive edge

What is the Process for Accreditation?
Organization submits electronic application and a $1,700 deposit – survey is scheduled:
- Average survey lasts 2-3 days
- Surveyor(s) will come visit your site(s) and interview staff & patients to validate the meeting of requirements
- Preliminary findings provided on-site via report, at end of survey
- Post survey, organization works with Joint Commission staff to correct findings and upon completion receives accreditation decision
- Resurvey 3 years with interim support for continuous compliance

Additional Accreditation Options
- Deemed Status for Surgery Centers: For ASCs seeking reimbursement for serving Medicare patients.
- Primary Care Medical Home Certification: Recognizes organizations providing superior access to care for patients and offers the potential for increased reimbursement.
- Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Certification: For suppliers furnishing the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging services, seeking Medicare reimbursement

Settings We Accredit
A wide variety of ambulatory care settings, including:
- Surgery Centers (including office-based)
- Medical Group Practices
- Community Health Centers
- Diagnostic Imaging Facilities
- Urgent Care Centers
- Kidney Care Providers
- Sleep Centers
- Convenient Care/Occ Health/Work-Site Clinics

Who are Surveyors?
- Clinical & administrative professionals experienced in ambulatory arena
- Employees of The Joint Commission
- Receive continuing education to keep them up-to-date on advances in quality-related performance evaluation

Am I Eligible?
- Offers services addressed by The Joint Commission’s Ambulatory Care standards
- Prior to the survey has served a minimum of ten patients, with two active patients at the time of survey

Cost of Accreditation?
- Based on patient volume and number of sites
- Approximate cost for average ambulatory care customer = $12,000
- Fees spread over 3 year accreditation cycle
- Pricing worksheets available online

Standards
The Joint Commission develops its standards in consultation with health care experts, providers and researchers, as well as purchasers and consumers. The standards-based performance areas for ambulatory care organizations are:
- Environment of Care
- Emergency Management
- Human Resources
- Infection Prevention and Control Information Management
- Leadership
- Life Safety
- Medication Management
- National Patient Safety Goals™
- Performance Improvement
- Provision of Care, Treatment and Services
- Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual
- Transplant Safety
- Waived Testing

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