About

Behavioral Health Home Certification

Integrated and Coordinated
Health Care Certified
by The Joint Commission
Introducing Behavioral Health Home Certification

The Joint Commission now has an optional certification for Joint Commission accredited behavioral health care organizations with integrated primary physical and behavioral health care.

- Behavioral Health Home certification (BHH) is an additional assessment of the organization on certification-specific standards regarding the integration and coordination of physical and behavioral health care.

- Organizations do not necessarily need to provide all the physical health care services themselves, but must ensure that the full array of primary physical and behavioral health care services is available and that care is coordinated.

- To be eligible, organizations must be accredited under the Behavioral health care accreditation manual (CAMBHC).

Behavioral Health Home certification requirements

The Behavioral Health Home model and the corresponding requirements focus on the coordination and integration of care in order to help decrease the high rates of morbidity and mortality of individuals with serious mental illness and other behavioral health conditions. They are based on key concepts of person-centered, comprehensive, coordinated care and support recovery and resilience philosophies.

- The requirements will include an evaluation of how primary care and other healthcare services are provided, accessed and coordinated as well as how data is used to analyze and improve outcomes for those served.

- Use of health information technology and/or electronic health records is addressed.

- A one-day on-site certification review will be required. This can be conducted in conjunction with an accreditation survey.

- The BHH certification standards are available in the CAMBHC accreditation manual. For complimentary access to the standards, please email BHC@jointcommission.org.

What will certification cost?

For most organizations, certification will require an additional surveyor day on top of the accreditation survey. There will be an additional cost for this added review day as well as $350 added to the organization’s annual fee for each year of the three-year cycle.

- If the certification review is conducted outside of the accreditation survey cycle, there will be an additional interim survey cost.

- Behavioral Health Home Certification has a three-year certification cycle, just like accreditation.
Why Choose The Joint Commission for Behavioral Health Home Certification?

With considerable experience in accrediting both behavioral health care and physical health care providers, the Joint Commission name is well recognized and respected across the continuum of health care.

- Health Home certification requirements can provide a framework to help organizations become behavioral health homes to better meet the needs of the individuals they serve.
- The certification process ensures that standards for care coordination are being met and a high level of quality is being attained.
- Referral relationships may be easier to establish with primary health care providers who are already Joint Commission accredited and familiar with Joint Commission policies.

Types of Behavioral Health Homes

Three types of behavioral health homes are recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Coordination and integration of primary physical and behavioral health are integral to each and the Joint Commission behavioral health home certification requirements are applicable to all three models.

- “In-house” - the behavioral health care organization provides the behavioral health care services and some of the primary physical health care services.

- “Co-Located partnership” – the behavioral health care organization arranges for health care providers to offer some basic primary physical health care services on site.

- “Facilitated referral” - the behavioral health care organization has processes to ensure the coordination of primary physical health care provided off-site.

Learn more

- Behavioral health care organizations interested in Behavioral Health Home certification or accreditation can contact Peggy Lavin at (630) 792-5411 or at plavin@jointcommission.org.

- Accredited behavioral health organizations can also call their account executive at 630-792-3007 to discuss next steps.
About the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act provided states with an option to create Health Homes for Medicaid enrollees. Behavioral Health Homes coordinate care and manage multiple diseases both physical and behavioral. To be eligible for a Health Home, a Medicaid beneficiary must have at least two chronic conditions, or one chronic condition and be at risk for another, or one serious and persistent mental health condition. Chronic conditions can include asthma, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, mental conditions or substance abuse disorders, and more.


- The Joint Commission is working closely with state authorities to acquire each state’s recognition for the new Behavioral Health Home Certification. State recognition will help behavioral health care organizations meet state Medicaid requirements and may improve an organization’s reimbursement structure.

- State Medicaid authorities and health insurance plans interested in learning more about The Joint Commission’s Behavioral Health Home Certification should contact Jennifer Hoppe, M.P.H., senior associate director, State and External Relations, at jhoppe@jointcommission.org or call 630-792-5261.