**Benefits of Joint Commission Laboratory Accreditation**

The Joint Commission accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations, including approximately 3,000 clinical laboratories. The Joint Commission is the gold standard in health care accreditation, with 60 years of experience across the full spectrum of health care settings. Joint Commission accreditation, which is designed to uphold the highest level of patient care, provides the most comprehensive evaluation process in the industry. After completion, laboratories can proudly display the Gold Seal of Approval™.

**Systems Approach**

The Joint Commission's systems approach within an organization can help labs improve patient safety and reduce the risk for costly errors. The accreditation certificate demonstrates to patients and their families that the laboratory has a commitment to providing safe quality care and services. Achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about a laboratory's efforts to provide patient safety and services of the highest quality.

Our unique tracer methodology reviews the entire scope of the laboratory testing process including pre- and post-analytical processes that occur outside the laboratory. The tracer system follows results to the bedside, bridging the important diagnostic services to patient care delivery. The broader standards approach allows you to make clinical and technical decisions based on your patients' needs and your process.

Another key benefit of Joint Commission accreditation is using a single accreditation organization for both your health care facility and your laboratory, reducing time spent as an organization managing accreditation activities. The same requirements exist for areas such as facilities, information management and leadership, reducing duplication of policies and processes.

We accredit lab settings ranging from small labs to large complex ones with 40 specialties and include:

- Hospital Laboratories
- Reference Labs
- Point of Care Test Sites
- IVF Laboratories
- Physician Office Laboratories
- Ambulatory Care Labs

**Professional Surveyors**

Our employed, certified lab surveyors enhance the value of the on-site survey. They bring focused, in-depth expertise and best practices to your laboratory from their time spent in hundreds of facilities across the country. The Joint Commission's employed medical technologist surveyors have experience in multiple lab disciplines, including lab management. Our surveyors, who receive standardized training for consistency, evaluate 45-75 labs across the nation in a given year, which allows them to better share leading practices and perform an objective review of your laboratory. Smaller surveyor teams for more days can be less disruptive to larger labs and provide opportunities to show full process rather than one day's observations. Additionally, the employed surveyor structure can translate to cost savings for your lab since there are no requirements for staff to take time off work to perform surveys, which saves money for your organization.

**Excellence in survey process**

A key advantage of the laboratory survey process is that all laboratories within an organization can be reviewed during the course of one survey. For example, freestanding ambulatory care centers, surgery centers, psychiatric and long term care facilities, as well as hospitals, are often part of the same health care organization. Many have their own laboratory services, each with a CLIA certificate number. The
Joint Commission survey covers not only laboratories in the hospital, but also laboratories serving different organizational elements even if services are provided off-campus or in a neighboring state. A separate survey request for each laboratory is not required. This can save your organization from repeated disruptions due to multiple surveys.

The Joint Commission’s scoring and decision model is based on the “criticality” of a requirement on patient safety and quality of care. With this approach, laboratories are readily able to evaluate compliance and focus resources in a structured, tiered approach. The decision model is based on a realistic set of screening criteria and a laboratory’s ability to submit acceptable evidence of compliance for all “direct impact” requirements within 45 and 60 days, respectively. Organizations also have the ability to correct Recommendations for Improvement (RFIs) during the on-site survey. Direct impact observed-but-corrected-on-site RFIs will be a part of the organization’s report but not factored into the organization’s accreditation decision. These typically include deficiencies that do not pose a significant threat to patient safety.

Unparalleled Individual Support
**Secure, organization specific information**
Each laboratory is provided a secure site on The Joint Commission Connect extranet site to receive and submit all Joint Commission information.

**Standards Assistance**
Questions about a particular standard can be asked online, via fax or by phone where you can speak to lab standards experts at any time in the accreditation process.

**Dedicated Account Executive**
Every lab customer is assigned an account executive who acts as their liaison to The Joint Commission. Your account executive is there to assist you with your application and serve as a single point of contact to find the right answer for your questions.

**E-Manual**
Once we receive receipt of your application deposit, you’ll receive access to the e-dition of our comprehensive standards manual which provides filtering capabilities of standards by specialty and sub-specialty.

**Access to Leading Practices**
An online library accessible through your organization’s secured extranet site, this tool contains solutions to common health care problems. Labs can search for topics of interest and learn how their peer organizations solved a particular problem.

**Targeted Solutions Tool™**
An application that guides a health care organization through a step-by-step process to identify their performance on a certain issue such as hand hygiene compliance, identify barriers to excellent performance and direct them to proven solutions that are most appropriate to their organization.