From Survey Report to Accreditation Decision

Your on-site survey is an important part of the accreditation decision-making process. During the on-site survey, your survey team uses the tracer methodology and other survey techniques to identify and document areas of noncompliance with Joint Commission standards. The summary of survey findings report provided to you at the conclusion of your on-site survey is confidential and does not contain an accreditation decision. Your final accreditation decision is not reached until the conclusion of the post-survey activities described in this document.

Post-Survey Activities

Before the exit conference, the survey team will post a preliminary summary of survey findings report. This preliminary report will appear under the “Notification of Scheduled Events” section of your Joint Commission Connect extranet site. Your organization will have access and can print copies in preparation for the exit conference.

Note: The “Notification of Scheduled Events” section has a time restriction and the preliminary report will only remain available until midnight of the day the survey has been completed.

At the exit conference, the survey team will review the preliminary findings identified during the survey. The survey team does not recommend and is not able to predict your organization’s accreditation decision. The accreditation decision is not made until all of your organization’s post-survey activities are completed.

Your organization’s summary of survey findings report may require further review by staff at The Joint Commission’s Central Office.

- Reports that meet a decision rule that automatically trigger a Preliminary Denial of Accreditation, Contingent Accreditation, or Accreditation with Follow-up Survey decision are always stopped for further review.
- Reports may be reviewed by the Standards Interpretation Group if there is a unique issue, such as a possible Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Condition-level deficiency, possible noncompliance with an Accreditation Participation Requirement, or an unusual question or circumstance that could not be resolved during the survey.

Based on the review, staff may recommend a decision of Accreditation with Follow-up Survey, Contingent Accreditation, or Preliminary Denial of Accreditation. The executive vice president for Accreditation and Certification Operations must review and approve the recommendation before sending it to the Joint Commission’s Accreditation Committee, which has final authority for assigning the accreditation decision. Your organization will be provided detailed instructions outlining next steps in the accreditation process.

The Joint Commission
From Survey Report to Accreditation Decision

Following the completion of the review, your organization’s final summary of survey findings report will be posted under the “Reports” section of your organization’s Joint Commission Connect extranet site. Your organization will receive an automated e-mail once this report is available.

The summary of survey findings report will indicate which findings require an Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) submission within 45 days (direct impact standards) and/or 60 days (indirect impact standards). The ESC form will be available under the “Post-Survey” section of your organization’s Joint Commission Connect extranet site. Please refer to the ESC Quick Tips document when completing the ESC reports.

Upon the approval of your organization’s last submitted ESC, your accreditation decision is posted to your Joint Commission Connect extranet site and to Quality Check (www.qualitycheck.org).

Resources

The Joint Commission Connect extranet site can be accessed using a login and password (www.jointcommission.org). Please refer to the following information under the “Post-Survey” section:

- Evidence of Standards Compliance
- Measure of Success
- Publicity Kit
- Evaluations
- Certificates

Your Account Executive is available to assist you with any questions that you may have about the post-survey process.

The Standards Interpretation Group is available to assist you with any questions that you may have about Joint Commission standards and can be reached at (630) 792-5900, option 6.