Joint Commission Accreditation for Laboratories

- Hospital Laboratories
- Reference and Standalone Laboratories
- Point of Care Testing Sites
- IVF Laboratories
- Physician Office Laboratories
- Ambulatory Care Laboratories
- Anatomic Pathology Laboratories
What is Accreditation?

Joint Commission accreditation evaluates the laboratory’s operational systems critical to providing quality test results. Surveyors who are experienced laboratorians perform an on-site review to assess compliance with standards and provide education and guidance to help staff continuously improve performance.

Raising the Bar - Why Accreditation

- Provides CMS deemed status for laboratories
- Focuses on performance improvement
- Identifies and reduces risk
- Distinguishes you from the competition by going above and beyond the CLIA regulations
- Demonstrates to staff, patients, and community your commitment to quality results for your patients
- Assists in receiving recognition from insurers, payers and other third parties
- Validates quality of care
- Enhances staff education
The Gold Standard - Why Joint Commission Accreditation

The Joint Commission accredits across the full spectrum of health care with more than 20,500 health care organizations, including approximately 1,500 clinical laboratories. Known as the gold standard in health care accreditation, our more than 35 years of experience in the laboratory setting provides an accreditation designed with the most comprehensive evaluation process in the health care industry that assists laboratories with identifying key risk areas.

- The tracer methodology reviews the entire scope of lab testing process including pre- and post-analytical processes that occur outside the lab.
- The non-prescriptive nature of the standards allows organizations to dictate how they meet laboratory requirements.
- Lab surveyors are professionally trained laboratorians and employed by The Joint Commission.
- Free access to our Lab Advantage™ program, which is a collaborative relationship between The Joint Commission, American Proficiency Institute (API) and the American Society of Clinical Pathology.
- The Leading Practice Library tool contains solutions to common standards compliance problems.
- E-dition Trial Version – Free, 60-day access to the electronic standards manual
- Assigned account executive to guide you through the entire accreditation process
- Preferred access to Standards Interpretation Group for help on standards compliance questions.

“We just completed the periodic performance review for our laboratory. What an in-depth process, but, because of the survey (and especially the surveyor), we could see the improvements we had made. This happened in a relatively short time. Our Joint Commission accreditation has had a significant impact on our facility. We continue to improve.”

John W. Bagenski, MT (ASCP)
Laboratory Technical Director
Auburn Community Hospital
Help is Here

Resources to prepare you for accreditation

Accreditation Overview – A general review of Joint Commission survey process, preparation tools and resources

Access to the e-dition of comprehensive standards manual which provides filtering capabilities of standards by specialty and subspecialty to find the standards applicable to your lab

Survey Activity Guide – Details the components of on-site visit with tools such as a Sample Survey Agenda and Document List

CLSI Crosswalk – The Joint Commission and the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute have created a complimentary crosswalk

Tracer Methodology Toolkit for Labs – A “how to” guide to conduct your own tracers

Dedicated Web Pages – Online resources located on the lab specific web pages on the Joint Commission website

Survey Options

Early Survey Option – For organizations needing to provide evidence (to payers, state and/or federal regulators) of their intent to obtain “full” accreditation. This option can be applied to new or existing laboratories.

Pathologist Surveyor – Laboratories can request that a pathologist boarded in anatomic pathology accompany the laboratory surveyor to perform the survey in the specialties and subspecialties of pathology.

Laboratory Corporate Survey - For laboratories owned by a corporate entity. A corporate survey option provides a dedicated team of surveyors for all full laboratory surveys, an annual summation of your survey findings, and an opportunity to provide us with an orientation to your laboratories.

Get Started Here

Call: 630.792.5817
Email: qualitylabs@jointcommission.org.
Website: www.jointcommission.org/accreditation/laboratory.aspx