Guide to
Behavioral Health Home Certification

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

The Joint Commission offers an optional certification for Joint Commission accredited behavioral health care organizations who are providing integrated primary physical and behavioral health care and wish to be recognized as Behavioral Health Homes.

- 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.

- Certification can be conducted in conjunction with an accreditation survey or as a stand-alone extension 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 organizations that opt to receive certification at the same time as their accreditation survey, an additional surveyor day will be required. There will be an additional cost for this of approximately $900, as well as $360 added to the organization’s annual fee for each year of the three-year certification cycle.

| Certification cost when added to accreditation survey: |
|---|---|---|
| **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** |
| Onsite fee | Onsite fee | Onsite fee |
| $900 | Ø | Ø |
| (with existing survey) | | |
| Annual fee | Annual fee | Annual fee |
| $360 | $360 | $360 |

- If the certification review is conducted outside of the accreditation survey cycle, there will be an interim survey cost of approximately $3,965 plus the $360 annual fee increase per year.
Why Choose The Joint Commission for Behavioral Health Home Certification?

With expertise across both behavioral and physical health care, The Joint Commission is recognized and respected as the gold standard in health care evaluation.

• Behavioral Health Home certification requirements can provide a framework to help organizations better meet the physical health 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. This is an important step for organizations looking to become Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs).

• 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 across all models.

• “In-house” - the behavioral health care organization provides the behavioral health care services and some or all of the primary physical health care services on site.

• “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 us at (630) 792-5771 or email at bhc@jointcommission.org.

• Accredited behavioral health organizations can also call their account executive at 630-792-3007 to discuss next steps.
Helping you provide health for the whole person.

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.

- For more information or to access the certification standards, contact us at (630) 792-5771 or email BHC@jointcommission.org.