

General Eligibility Requirements

Any hospital may apply for Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation if it meets all the following criteria:

- The hospital is located outside of the United States and its territories.
- The hospital is currently operating as a health care provider in the country, is licensed to provide care and treatment as a hospital (if required), and, at minimum, does the following:
 - Provides a complete range of *acute care* clinical services—diagnostic, curative, and rehabilitative.
 - Provides services that are available 365 days per year; ensures all direct patient care services are operational 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; and provides ancillary and support services as needed for emergent, urgent, and/or emergency needs of patients 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (such as diagnostic testing, laboratory, and operating theatre, as appropriate to the type of acute care hospital).
 - In the case of a specialty hospital, provides a defined set of services, such as pediatric, eye, dental, and psychiatry, among others.
- The hospital provides services addressed by the current JCI accreditation standards for hospitals.
- The hospital assumes, or is willing to assume, responsibility for improving the quality of its care and services.
- The hospital is open and in *full operation*, admitting and discharging a volume of patients that will permit the complete evaluation of the implementation and sustained compliance with all current JCI accreditation standards for hospitals.
- The hospital meets the conditions described in the current “Accreditation Participation Requirements” (APRs) chapter.

Academic medical center hospital applicants must meet each of the criteria above in addition to the following three criteria:

- The applicant hospital is organizationally or administratively integrated with a medical school.
- The applicant hospital is the *principal site* for the education of both (1) *medical students* (undergraduates) and (2) postgraduate medical specialty *trainees* (**for example**, residents or interns) from such medical school.
- At the time of application, the applicant hospital is conducting *medical research* with approval and oversight by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or research ethics committee.

Contact JCI at JCIAccrediation@jcrinc.com prior to submitting an electronic application (that is, E-App) to discuss the criteria and validate whether the hospital meets the above criteria as well as the definition for “in full operation” (See definitions above) at least four months or more prior to submitting its E-App and at its initial survey. JCI may request documentation of the hospital’s utilization statistics prior to accepting the E-App or conducting the on-site survey. In addition, JCI will not begin an on-site survey, may discontinue an on-site survey, or may cancel a scheduled survey when it determines the hospital is not “in full operation.”

Note: If in its reasonable discretion JCI determines that the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria for the Hospital/Academic Medical Center Hospital accreditation program, JCI will not accept or process the E-App and will notify the hospital of its decision.

Understanding Terms

Full operation

Criteria indicating the organization's readiness for comprehensive on-site evaluation against all relevant JCI standards, based on identification of the of the following in the organization's electronic application for survey (E-App):

- A list of all clinical services currently provided for inpatients and outpatients. (Those clinical services that are planned, and thus not identified in the E-App, and begin operations at a later time will require a separate extension survey to evaluate those services.)
- Utilization statistics for clinical services showing consistent inpatient and outpatient activity levels and types of services provided for at least four months or more prior to submission of the organization's electronic application.
- All inpatient and outpatient clinical services, units, and departments. These locations must be available for a comprehensive evaluation against all relevant JCI standards for hospitals currently in effect, consistent with JCI's normal survey process for the size and type of organization, such as the following:
 - Patient tracer activities, including individual patient and system tracers
 - Open and closed medical record review
 - Direct observation of patient care processes
 - Interviews with patients
 - Interviews with medical students/trainees

Principal site

The location at which the hospital provides the majority of medical specialty programs for postgraduate medical trainees (for example, residents or interns) and not just one specialty, as in a single-specialty organization (for example, an ophthalmologic hospital, dental hospital, or orthopedic hospital).

Medical research

Basic, clinical, and health services research that includes many types of research studies, such as clinical trials, therapeutic interventions, development of new medical technologies, and outcomes research, among others. (Hospitals that primarily conduct non-human subjects research and/or research exempt from review by an Institutional Review Board or research ethics committee, such as medical record review studies, case studies, and research involving data/specimens without individually identifiable information, do not meet criterion 3 of the academic medical center hospital eligibility criteria.)