

# Eligibility Requirements

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## Laboratories

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

- The laboratory is located outside of the United States and its territories.
- If required by law, the laboratory has a facility license or registration to conduct its scope of services.
- The laboratory provides services addressed by *Joint Commission International Accreditation Standards for Laboratories (previously Clinical Laboratories)*.
- The laboratory identifies the services it provides, indicating which care, treatment, and/or services it provides directly, under contract, or through some other arrangement.
- All current services identified by the organization in the survey application are in *full operation* at the time of the on-site accreditation survey; these laboratory services are immediately available for a comprehensive evaluation against all relevant JCI standards, such as tracer activities, quality control process review, and direct observation of laboratory processes, collection stations, and off-site laboratory services.
- The laboratory assumes, or is willing to assume, responsibility for improving the quality of its care and services.

### Definition of *full operation*

- The laboratory accurately identifies the following in its electronic application (E-App) at the time of application:
  - All services currently provided. (Those services that are planned and thus not identified in the E-App, and begin operations at a later time, may require a separate extension survey to evaluate the services.)
  - Utilization statistics for laboratory services showing consistent activity levels and types of services provided for at least four months or more prior to submission of the E-App
- All services identified in the E-App are available for a comprehensive evaluation against all relevant JCI standards for laboratories consistent with JCI's normal survey process for the size and type of organization (see, **for example**, the JCI third edition laboratory survey process guide), such as
  - tracer activities;
  - quality control process review;
  - visits to clinical laboratory areas, collection stations, and off-site lab services; and
  - competence assessment and credentials evaluations.

Contact JCI Accreditation prior to submitting an E-App to discuss the criteria and validate whether the laboratory meets the above criteria for *full operation*. JCI may request documentation of the laboratory'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 laboratory is not in *full operation*.

**Note:** If in its reasonable discretion JCI determines that the applicant laboratory does not meet the published eligibility criteria, JCI will not accept the application or will not process the application for accreditation from the laboratory and will notify the laboratory of its decision.