



Joint Commission International Accreditation and Certification Policies
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Applying for Accreditation

Accreditation Decision Process

Purpose. To provide a clear, transparent, and consistent accreditation/certification and postsurvey compliance process to render a final accreditation/certification decision based on the approved decision rules.

The Accreditation/Certification Decision

The final accreditation/certification decision is based on an organization's compliance with Joint Commission International (JCI) standards. Organizations do not receive a numeric score as part of the final accreditation/certification decision. When an organization successfully meets the JCI requirements, it will be awarded an accreditation decision of Accredited or certification decision of Certified. This decision indicates that an organization is in compliance with all applicable standards and International Patient Safety Goals (IPSGs) at the time of the initial or triennial full survey or at the conclusion of a Focused Survey conducted within 120 days subsequent to the initial or triennial full survey.

Length of Accreditation/Certification Awards

An accreditation/certification award is valid for three years unless revoked by JCI Accreditation. The award is retroactively effective on the first day after JCI completes the organization's initial or triennial full survey or, first day after JCI completes a focused survey, if required subsequent to the initial or triennial full survey. An organization's accreditation/certification is not automatically renewed after three years. Rather, an organization seeking to continue its accreditation/certification must again undergo a full accreditation/certification survey, resolve any follow-up conditions, and found to be in compliance with the standards and IPSGs.

Postsurvey Compliance Process

After an organization receives an Accredited or Certified decision, JCI Accreditation requests the organization to complete a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) for all Not Met and for selected Partially Met findings that could impact patient safety and quality. The SIP is due within 45 days of receiving the Official Survey Findings Report. JCI Accreditation reviews and accepts the plan; if the plan is not accepted, the organization has another 30 days to resubmit an acceptable plan; when the second SIP submission is not accepted, the organization is assigned At Risk for Denial of Accreditation/Certification classification and scheduled for a focused survey (*see* Focused Survey Policy). If an acceptable SIP is not submitted by 120 days JCI Accreditation recommends to the Accreditation Committee that the organization's accreditation/certification be withdrawn (*see* At Risk for Denial of Accreditation/Certification Policy).