



Ambulatory Care Accreditation Eligibility Requirements

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

- The ambulatory care organization is located outside of the United States and its territories.
- The ambulatory care organization is currently operating as a health care provider and has a license or registration to conduct its scope of services (if required).
- The ambulatory care organization provides services addressed by the *Joint Commission International Accreditation Standards for Ambulatory Care*.
- All current services identified by the ambulatory care organization in the survey application are in *full operation* at the time of the on-site accreditation survey; these services are immediately available for a comprehensive evaluation against all relevant JCI accreditation standards for ambulatory care.
- The ambulatory care organization assumes, or is willing to assume, responsibility for improving the quality of its care and services.
- The ambulatory care organization provides outpatient care, treatment, or services, which may be general or specialty and urgent or planned. Examples of organizations include freestanding medical, dental, and surgical facilities; dialysis facilities; diagnostic imaging centers; ophthalmology clinics; plastic surgery centers; and others.
- The ambulatory care organization's patients stay in the organization for short periods; however, if patients require overnight stays due to a prolonged recovery, they are released or transferred as appropriate within 24 hours.
- An ambulatory care organization that is part of a hospital and located within a hospital will be surveyed under the hospital's accreditation survey. However, the ambulatory care organization may also choose to have a separate accreditation from the hospital that is in addition to the hospital accreditation. In that circumstance, the ambulatory care organization will be surveyed separately under the ambulatory care standards and may be awarded a separate accreditation.

Definition of full operation

- The ambulatory care organization accurately identifies the following in its electronic application (E-App) at the time of application:
 - All services currently provided. (Services that are planned and begin operations at a later time are not included in the E-App and may require a separate extension survey to evaluate those services.)
 - Utilization statistics for clinical services showing consistent activity levels and types of services provided for at least four months 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 ambulatory care consistent with JCI's normal survey process according to the size and type of organization (*see, for example, the JCI Survey Process Guide for Ambulatory Care, 4th Edition*), such as
 - tracer activities, including individual patient and systems tracers;
 - medical record review;
 - direct observation of patient care processes;

- o interviews with patients; and
- o competency assessment and credentials evaluations.

Contact JCI Accreditation prior to submitting an E-App to discuss the criteria and validate whether the ambulatory care organization meets the above criteria for full operation. JCI may request documentation of the organization'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 if it determines the organization is not in full operation.

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