

## Accreditation Resources: Comparison Chart

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) supports Health Center Program grantees in achieving ambulatory health care accreditation. The chart below provides a comparison between HRSA's contracted accreditation organizations—the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and The Joint Commission (TJC).

Section	Activity	AAAHC	The Joint Commission
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Survey Services</b>		
1.1	Initial survey of ambulatory care services	YES	YES
1.2	Re-accreditation surveys and self-assessments of ambulatory care services	YES	YES
1.3	Surveys of laboratory services: waived tests and provider performed microscopy	YES	YES
1.4	Surveys of laboratory services: moderately and high complexity labs	YES	YES. Meets CLIA '88 Lab Certificate of Accreditation requirements so state survey is not needed.
1.5	Integrated behavioral health services	YES	YES
1.6	Stand-alone behavioral health services	NO	YES. When either chemical dependency services are offered (with more than 100 visits per year) or behavioral health services are offered with 20% or more of the total number visits for all services.

Section	Activity	AAAHC	The Joint Commission
<b>2.0</b>	<b>The Accreditation Cycle</b>		
2.1	Three year cycle for on-site survey process to evaluate compliance with standards for ambulatory and behavioral health	YES	YES
2.2	Post survey activities to assure ongoing compliance with current standards	YES	YES
2.3	An unannounced survey following initial surveys	NO	YES
2.4	Two year survey cycles for laboratory	NO	YES. A laboratory survey maybe needed at a different time than when the ambulatory survey is conducted.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Electronic Application</b>		
3.1	Electronic, web based application process	YES	YES
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Surveyors and Staff</b>		
4.1	Experienced professional surveyors and staff	YES	YES
4.2	Initial and ongoing surveyor training	YES	YES
4.3	Monitoring and evaluation of surveyor performance	YES	YES
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Accreditation Standards</b>		
5.1	Standards handbook and/or manual	YES	YES
5.2	Medical home certification/recognition	YES	YES

Section	Activity	AAHC	The Joint Commission
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Accreditation Resources</b>		
6.1	Publications	YES	YES
6.2	Professional assistance with interpretation of standards	YES	YES
6.3	Accreditation readiness packets	YES	YES
6.4	Dedicated website for health centers	YES	YES
<b>7.0</b>	<b>On-site Post Survey Conference</b>		
7.1	Summation conference	YES	YES
7.2	Preliminary report provided on-site	NO	YES
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Reports and Accreditation Decisions</b>		
8.1	Decision letter within 30 business days	YES	YES
8.2	Final survey report within 30 days of survey	YES	YES
8.3	Plan of correction	YES	YES
8.4	Appeal of a negative accreditation decision	YES	YES
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Intra Cycle Activities</b>		
9.1	Annual periodic performance review	NO	YES
9.2	Random unannounced survey	YES	YES
9.3	Discretionary survey or for cause survey	YES	YES

Section	Activity	AAHC	The Joint Commission
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Education, Training, and Technical Assistance</b>		
10.1	Mock survey or pre-survey	YES, but with an additional fee to the health center.	YES. No fee for the initial survey.
10.2	Webinars, teleconferences, conference calls, and audio conferences	YES	YES
10.3	Activities/programs in conjunction with the National Association of Community Health Centers and or Primary Care Associations	YES	YES
10.4	Continuing Education Units (CEUs)	NO	YES
10.5	Conference calls and audio conference	YES	YES
10.6	Webinars	YES	YES
10.7	Custom on-site training	YES	YES

## POINTS OF CONTACT

For additional information on AAAHC or The Joint Commission, please see the list below to find out how to contact HRSA's partners.

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