

HRSA ACCREDITATION INITIATIVE RESOURCES

(updated 05-24-2012)

The HRSA Accreditation Initiative for the Health Center Program is designed to provide health centers with a process that meets their needs. This chart highlights the offerings provided by each of HRSA's contracted accreditation organizations, AAAHC and The Joint Commission.

Section	Activity	AAAHC	The Joint Commission
1.0	Survey Services		
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.
2.0	The Accreditation Cycle		
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

Section	Activity	AAAHC	The Joint Commission
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.
3.0	Electronic Application		
3.1	Electronic, web based application process	YES	YES
4.0	Surveyors and Staff		
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
5.0	Accreditation Standards		
5.1	Standards handbook and/or manual	YES	YES
5.2	Medical home certification/recognition	YES	YES
6.0	Accreditation Readiness Resources		
6.1	Mock survey or pre-survey	YES but with an additional fee to the health center.	YES. No fee for the initial survey.
6.2	Publications	YES	YES
6.3	Professional assistance with interpretation of standards	YES	YES
6.4	Webinars	YES	YES
6.5	Accreditation readiness packets	YES	YES
6.6	Technical assistance on site and phone calls	YES	YES
6.7	Dedicated web site for health centers	NO	YES

Section	Activity	AAAHC	The Joint Commission
7.0	On-site Post Survey Conference		
7.1	Summation conference	YES	YES
7.2	Preliminary report provided on-site	NO	YES
8.0	Reports and Accreditation Decisions		
8.1	Decision letter within 10 business days	YES	YES
8.2	Final survey report	Provided to the health center 30-days after the last day of the survey.	Usually 48 hours (unless there are issues raised by the surveyors that must be reviewed by Central Office staff).
8.3	Plan of correction	YES	YES
8.4	Appeal of a negative accreditation decision	YES	YES
9.0	Intra Cycle Activities		
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
10.0	Education, Training, and Technical Assistance		
10.1	Teleconferences	YES	YES
10.2	Activities/programs in conjunction with the National Association of Community Health Centers and or Primary Care Associations	YES	YES
10.3	Continuing Education Units (CEUs)	NO	YES
10.4	Annual conference	NO	YES

Section	Activity	AAAHc	The Joint Commission
10.5	Conference calls and audio conference	YES	YES
10.6	Webinars	YES	YES
10.7	Custom on-site training	YES	YES
11.0	Contact Persons at Accreditation Organizations		
11.1	Contacts	Ron Smothers Assistant Director, Accreditation Services rsmothers@aaahc.org	Lon Berkeley Project Director, CHC Accreditation 630-792-5787 lberkeley@jointcommission.org Rex Zordan Senior Account Executive 630-792-5509 rzordan@jointcommission.org Delia Constanzo BPHC Accreditation Initiative 630-792-5011 dconstanzo@jointcommission.org