



OHIO NURSING HOME QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Ohio Nursing Home Quality Improvement Project

The Joint Commission, Nursing Care Center Accreditation

Description: The Joint Commission’s Nursing Care Center accreditation focuses on achieving improved patient and resident outcomes through implementation of organization-wide performance improvement standards. These process improvement standards focus on quality and safety that is above and beyond the basic federal Requirements for Participation and many state licensure requirements for nursing homes. The standards are developed with input from health care professionals, providers, consumers, government agencies and other subject matter experts. Accreditation is awarded for a 3-year period to organizations who successfully demonstrate compliance with Joint Commission standards during an on-site survey. An inter-cycling monitoring plan of action in months twelve and twenty-four after survey are done to attest to continued compliance throughout the accreditation cycle.

Benefits of Joint Commission Nursing Care Center accreditation are:

- Provides a framework for quality and process improvement which exceeds CMS QAPI and other Requirements for Participation in Medicare & Medicaid.
- Improves operational efficiency, helping organizations identify and reduce waste, work-arounds and redundancy of tasks.
- Develops root cause analysis skills, using a tracer methodology where the process of care is “traced” over departments, time, shifts and staff -- training organizations to trace problems to their inception.
- Embeds a proactive approach to reducing risks in order to correct process problems and reduce the likelihood of experiencing adverse events.
- Leadership and culture change is emphasized, with an entire standards chapter devoted to these topics.
- Targeted Solutions Tools (TSTs) guide organizations through a step-by-step process to accurately measure performance, identify barriers to excellent performance and provide customized solutions to some of healthcare’s biggest challenges: hand hygiene, pressure ulcers and falls.

- Joint Commission-accredited skilled nursing facilities perform better than non-accredited facilities in nine CMS quality measures which include: falls, pain, pressure ulcers, antipsychotic medication use, vaccinations, reduced financial risk as evidenced by fewer payment denials.*
- The accreditation survey experience provides unmatched learning opportunities and access to best practices through highly qualified and competent surveyors.

How to Join: Nursing homes must request and submit an application, prepare, and successfully demonstrate compliance against Joint Commission standards through an on-site survey and submission of Evidence of Standards Compliance, for areas where the nursing home is found to not meet the standards. To maintain accreditation, nursing homes must demonstrate continued compliance with Joint Commission standards through intra-cycle monitoring by submitting data electronically and an on-site survey every three years.

Dates of Project: Organizations may seek accreditation at any time throughout the year. The accreditation decision is rendered upon receipt of a satisfactory submission of an Evidence of Standard Compliance submitted to The Joint Commission post-survey. For purposes of the NHQI, two-year project participation is calculated from the effective date displayed on www.qualitycheck.org.

Evidence of Participation in the Project: Evidence of project participation is demonstrated by achieving accreditation. Accreditation is indicated by the receipt of a Joint Commission Certificate of Accreditation which reflects the dates of the 3 year accreditation cycle. Accredited organizations are publicly identified on the Joint Commission's Quality Check website: www.qualitycheck.org.

**S.C. Williams et al., JAMDA 18 (2017) 24e29, Comparing Public Quality Ratings for Accredited and Non-accredited Nursing Homes*