

Frequently Asked Questions from the 8/3/2023 Joint Commission and NJ DOH webinar: Using New Jersey's Accreditation Deemed Status Pathway for NJ Licensure Renewals

We grouped post-webinar questions by category and consolidated some of the questions received. Please contact us for any questions not addressed in the sections below.

On Process/Timeline

Can a newly built assisted living residence use the accreditation process as part of the initial licensing inspection process?

New assisted living residences must go through an initial licensing inspection conducted by the Department of Health. Subsequent licensing inspections can use deemed status accreditation in lieu of the required periodic inspection.

Since the licensing inspection cycle is two years but the accreditation cycle is every three years, how would an Assisted Living Residence use accreditation to satisfy every two-year cycle?

The Joint Commission is committed to working with each accredited assisted living organization and the state of New Jersey to ensure that both accreditation and licensing renewal works hand in hand and that accreditation renewal surveys occur within an optimal timeframe for both entities. The Joint Commission Business Development team at alc@jointcommission.org is ready to discuss timeframes specific to your community.

If my Assisted Living Residence received Advanced Standing this year, but I apply this year, would my timeline coincide with the expiration of the current Advanced Standing?

The Advanced Standing program ends 10/31/2023. An assisted living residence opting into deemed status will need to have its accreditation decision in place before the next licensure renewal date, so that the accreditation documentation can be submitted to the Division of Health Facility Survey & Field Operations.

DOH will survey 10% of accredited buildings, is that 10% over three years, or 10% yearly?

NJ DOH will survey 10% annually.

What if the Department of Health receives a complaint related to an accredited organization?

Accreditation is separate from licensure inspections and the Department has the authority to investigate any complaints that it receives. The department may also forward the complaint to the accreditation organization since it is a currently accredited organization.

On Standards/ Requirements

How do standards compare with NJ state requirements?

The Joint Commission completed a crosswalk to state regulations. In our review, see crosswalk embedded below, we determined that although it does not present a direct match the Joint Commission accreditation standards offer a framework which can be used for review of foundational state requirements and our own accreditation standards. The goal of the crosswalk is to determine where state specific regulations potentially match or relate to Joint Commission Standards. This crosswalk allows for multiple stakeholders, including the Assisted Living Residences, to see what standards would be triggered for state specific regulations. Joint Commission surveyors use these crosswalks to have a place to cite relevant state specific requirements that fall out of compliance. Assisted living residences



that use the accreditation program cited for deficiencies will be required to submit evidence of standards compliance, including any state specific requirements that are cited. See [Crosswalk](#).

Where do I find the standards and process to start?

Contact the Joint Commission ALC Business development team at 630-792-5020 or email alc@jointcommisison.org or go to www.jointcommission.org/alc to request to view the online application or to preview the accreditation and certification standards.

All applicant and accredited organizations have access to a secure extranet portal called Joint Commission Connect where you can access the accreditation preparation tools and resources. One of the tools is called a Focused Standards Assessment tool that you can use to self-evaluate your communities' current compliance to standards to inform your planning and preparation for initial accreditation.

On Data

How does the Joint Commission collect data from ALC and can ALC accredited residences choose which of the Joint Commission assisted living quality measures to track?

At no additional cost, accredited organizations will have access to Joint Commission's Direct Data Submission Platform to report and track performance on the 5 quality measures. Accredited assisted living residences will be required to monitor and track all 5 quality measures beginning the next quarter after the accreditation decision is received.

Does the Joint Commission require use of the LTC trend tracker?

No, the Joint Commission does not require use of the LTC trend tracker.

Other

Does the NJ Deemed Status program recognize all accreditors?

The NJ Deemed Status program allows for accreditation by all nationally recognized accreditation organizations that accredit assisted living organizations.

When will the N.J.A.C. 8:36 Standards for Licensure of Assisted Living Residences be reviewed for inclusion of deemed status? If it has not yet been reviewed, can we still apply for the deemed status for a current Joint Commission accreditation at our licensing renewal at the end of this year?

N.J.A.C. 8:36 will be updated to formally include accreditation deemed status for assisted living residences. Currently, an assisted living residence can apply for accreditation anytime and can use the deemed status towards licensing inspections effective November 1, 2023.

How many assisted living organizations are currently accredited?

As of September 2023, the Joint Commission has over 30 accredited assisted living communities.