

Health Care Equity Certification

Kathryn Petrovic MSN, RN

Vice President, Global Accreditation & Certification
Product Development



Our Mission

Enabling and affirming the highest standards of patient safety and healthcare quality for all



Our Vision

That all people always experience the safest, highest quality, best-value health care across all settings

“

It's our responsibility to drive value, agility, burden reduction and innovation with the organizations we serve.”

Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD

President and CEO, The Joint Commission



The H.E.L.P Agenda

Grand Challenges Facing Organizations and Communities



What	Why	Benefit
H Health Equity	Responsibility & Patient Safety Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">National Patient Safety GoalAdvanced Certification	Improves access, quality, and reduces costs for populations
E nvironmental Sustainability	Health, Equity & Patient Safety Issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustainable Healthcare Certification	Tackles issues that are directly responsible for increasing disease burden
L earning	Responsible Use of Health Data Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none">Guide safe, effective, equitable AI & algorithms	Protecting patient privacy and organizations by ensuring responsible use of data
P erformance Integration & Improvement	From “performative” to performance improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eliminated obsolete standardsIntroduced “directional” standardLatitude to address complex issues	Reducing survey burden and leveraging innovation to increase efficiency

TJC Health Care Equity Certification Program

- Launched **July 2023**
- Recognize organizations that go beyond the foundational accreditation requirements and strive for excellence
- Voluntary program for hospitals, separate from accreditation
- Focus on health care equity
- Certification requirements build upon on long-standing and recently released health care equity accreditation requirements

Certification Domains



Leadership



Collaboration



Data Collection



Provision
of Care



Performance
Improvement

Certification Domains

Leadership

- Strategic priority
- Board involvement

Collaboration

- Engage patients
- Engage community organizations

Data Collection

- Community
- Patients
- Staff

Provision of Care

- Staff training
- Patient-provider communication
- Patients with disabilities
- Health-related social needs

Performance Improvement

- Analysis of data to identify opportunities to improve disparate care
- Implement performance improvement activities

Realized Improvements

Most common focus areas :

- readmissions
- patient experience of care
- maternal care (cesarean section rates)
- diabetes care (A1c levels)

Interventions:

- incorporating families into patient care
- improving language interpretation services
- implementing culturally appropriate education and follow-up care



Health Care Equity Certification: Current Payer Recognitions

- Massachusetts Medicaid: 1115 Medicaid Waiver (HCE certification required by 12.31.25)
- Colorado Medicaid: HCE Certification Recognized in Hospital Quality Incentive Payment Program
- Elevance/Anthem BCBS: HCE Certification Adds Bonus Point in Hospital Quality Incentive Program
 - CA, CO, CT, GA, IN, KY, ME, MO, NH, NV, NY, OH, VA, WI
- Meridian (IL)/Centene: Medicaid Managed Care Insurer Covers HCE Certification Fees for IL Hospitals

Resource Center

<https://www.jointcommission.org/our-priorities/health-care-equity/standards-and-resource-center/>

Focused Resources to Support Standards Compliance

Make Health Care Equity a
Leader-Driven Priority



LD.04.03.08, EP 1

Assess Health-Related Social
Needs



LD.04.03.08, EP 2

Prioritize, Plan and Take
Action



LD.04.03.08, EP 4

Monitor Health Care Equity
Progress



LD.04.03.08, EP 5

Evidence-Based
Interventions



Specific clinical topics

Use I



Snapshots

Brief synopses of approaches used by other organizations.



Soundbites

Brief videos of organizations' lessons learned.



Strategies

Links to resources such as toolkits, templates, and guides.

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