



UPDATE: The 2009 Decision Process

As of January 2009, reports of survey findings left with your organization after survey will no longer contain a preliminary accreditation decision based on reaching a defined threshold. As described in the December 2008 issue of *The Joint Commission Perspectives*[®], programmatic “bands” for “Direct Impact” Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) have been determined based on the number of survey days (as an indication of the size and complexity of the organization). See the table below for program-specific band information.

Review Process and Criteria

The following information describes the review process and the criteria that will be considered during each review:

- These bands will serve as screening thresholds for Joint Commission Central Office review.
 - If the report meets or exceeds the screening “band” for Direct Impact RFIs, the report will stop for Central Office review.
 - This review will result in either a recommendation for Conditional Accreditation or Accreditation with RFIs if no other decision rule has been triggered.
- After an initial review to ensure that Direct Impact observations are correctly placed and the documentation supports the RFIs, the report will be reviewed to evaluate the effectiveness of systems and processes across the organization.
 - The identification of trends of noncompliance and the breakdown of systems and processes will be the focus of the review, rather than the volume of RFIs.
 - Conditional Accreditation will be recommended to The Joint Commission’s Accreditation Committee when it is determined that follow-up and monitoring by The Joint Commission would be beneficial to the organization.

Considerations Before a Conditional Accreditation Recommendation

The following criteria will be considered before recommending Conditional Accreditation to the Accreditation Committee:

- The seriousness of the observations—the magnitude of the situation or issue observed
- Trends or systemic problems—the RFIs demonstrate or indicate a breakdown of systems and processes rather than isolated incidents
- Any leadership changes over the past 12 to 18 months that may have had a positive or negative impact on the organization
- Repeat issues from the previous full survey indicating either a failure to correct or an inability to sustain compliance

Circumstances for a Preliminary Denial of Accreditation Recommendation

Preliminary Denial of Accreditation (PDA) will be recommended in the following circumstances:

- A Situational Decision Rule is triggered, which generates a PDA recommendation (for example, lack of license or certificate; practicing outside the scope of license and potentially causing harm; misrepresenting information to The Joint Commission)
- Immediate Threat to Health or Safety determinations
- The failure to correct RFIs within the defined time frames

Additional information will be provided in an upcoming issue of *Perspectives*.

Surveyor Days Associated with Program-Specific “Bands”

Surveyor Days	AHC	BHC	CAH	HAP	LAB	LT2	LTC	OBS	OME	DSC	HCSS
Surveyor Days–Band 1	1–2	1–4	1–2	1–4	≥ 1	≥ 1	≥ 1	≥ 1	1–4	≥ 1	≥ 1
Surveyor Days–Band 2	3	≥ 5	≥ 3	5–6					≥ 5		
Surveyor Days–Band 3	4			7–9							
Surveyor Days–Band 4	≥ 5			10–13							
Surveyor Days–Band 5				≥ 14							

Key: AHC, ambulatory care; BHC, behavioral health care; CAH, critical access hospital; HAP, hospital; LAB, laboratory; LT2, Medicare/Medicaid certification-based long term care; LTC, long term care; OBS, office-based surgery; OME, home care; DSC, disease-specific care; HCSS, health care staffing services.