




ACC
Accreditation
Services™



Transforming Cardiovascular Patient Care Together

*Accreditation Helps You Reduce Variations in Care,
Bridge Gaps, Track Progress, Achieve ROI*



Leading with an approach that is rooted in collaboration, ACC places a great deal of importance on building engaged, multidisciplinary teams.

ACC Accreditation Services

Building Communities of Excellence

ACC helps hospitals and health systems achieve the highest standard of cardiac care. Using the most recent scientific, peer-reviewed guidelines and highly-effective process improvement tools, our accreditation specialists help health care professionals navigate the array of challenges associated with cardiac patient populations.

In partnership with our experienced accreditation staff, your team members will identify existing gaps in treatment, implement strategies that improve and streamline clinical care processes, and accelerate the pace at which your facility can tap into proven, evidence-based protocols. By adopting best practices and implementing new care guidelines for patients suffering from cardiovascular-related diseases, your facility can achieve substantial, measured success in outstanding patient care.



ACC Mission

To transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health

ACC Vision

A world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes



We utilize operational models that combine evidence-based science, established quality improvement methods, appropriate medical guidelines (such as ACC/AHA guidelines), and clinical best practices to optimize the delivery of cardiac care.

The Basics of Accreditation

Facilities accredited by the College establish a track record of adeptly managing the essential process improvement components embedded in our accreditation programs.

Time and again, cost of care is decidedly reduced and accredited hospitals find that they have significantly exceeded all of their initial expectations.

Each accreditation program is designed to guide you toward exceptional performance through the adoption of process improvement techniques and the implementation of best practices.

ACC accreditations are based on:

- a professional review of a facility's governance
- community outreach efforts
- relationships with first responders such as local EMS
- processes and protocols established for early stabilization, acute care, and transitional care
- attainment of clinical quality measures

Accredited facilities not only elevate their cardiovascular services through the insights gained in the accreditation process, they are also better positioned to achieve optimal financial, quality, and patient satisfaction outcomes.



Consultative & Collaborative



Accredited facilities leverage the expertise and collective knowledge of ACC professionals. Our Accreditation Review Specialists are collaborative — providing coaching, feedback and education to assist facilities through the accreditation journey. We assign a dedicated Accreditation Review Specialist to work closely with each facility to actively monitor their progress and to provide feedback, guidance, best practices, and focused support.



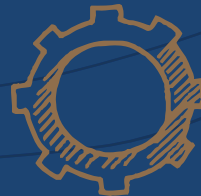
1. Launch

- Purchase or Renew Accreditation Services
- Confirm Participants: Select Executive Sponsor and Form Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Schedule time for Accreditation Training
- Manage Required Accreditation Tool Actions



2. Assess

- Perform Gap Analysis
- Target Areas for Improvement
- Build Action Plan and Set Milestones



3. Implement

- Apply Evidence-based Medicine Approach to Process Improvement
- Complete Mandatory Action Items; Consider Recommended and Innovative Items
- Rollout Improvement Strategies and Align Internal Resources



4. Validate

- Apply for Accreditation
- Schedule Site Evaluation



5. Achieve

- Achieve Accreditation
- Measure Success
- Announce Accreditation and Quality Improvements
- Build Upon Reputation for Outstanding Patient Care



6. Advance

- Follow Strategic Recommendations
- Explore Process Improvements Opportunities
- Continue to Optimize Practices for Improved Outcomes
- Implement Continuous Data-driven Decision Making
- Take Advantage of Educational Opportunities
- Meet Ongoing Accreditation Criteria

Pathway to Accreditation

Facilities that achieve accreditation are immersed in the discipline of continuous quality improvement. This ensures continued progress in their effort to implement and maintain best practices.

Advantages of Accreditation

Frequently cited advantages of accreditation include:

- Risk stratification defined and deployed to ensure correct placement of patients based on clinical presentation and initial response to treatment
- Gaps in the continuum of care identified; appropriate use criteria applied
- Cross-departmental processes streamlined; multi-disciplinary team approach to treatment instilled
- Length-of-stay and costs associated with frequent readmissions decreased
- Utilization and integration with the industry-leading NCDR® and other nationally recognized quality registries supported
- Relationships and processes with EMS and dispatch services improved
- Essential metrics collected and reviewed to ensure that processes meet clinical and financial goals
 - Increased patient volume leads to increased revenue
 - Medicare payments to accredited hospitals are maintained due to appropriate patient status placement
 - Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) issues avoided by implementing a plan that links quality patient care with RAC strategies, including improved documentation, better risk stratification, and improved processes
- Reputation for dedication to exceptional cardiac care within the community enhanced
- Better performance attained on CMS core measures for ACS and HF patients



Each ACC Accreditation tool is a HIPAA compliant, web-based application that helps a facility document, track, and monitor their cardiac care process improvement initiatives.

Earn the HeartCARE Center, National Distinction of Excellence



Facilities that repeatedly demonstrate their commitment to world-class cardiovascular care are well on their way to becoming an ACC HeartCARE Center.™

ACC's recognition program is founded upon two earned accreditations and includes additional components that are designed to benchmark your clinical practices, enhance patient care and outcomes, and confirm your commitment to ongoing professional excellence. Becoming an ACC HeartCARE Center is achievable and validates the significant steps you take to deliver exceptional care.

World-Class Care Begins with ACC's Quality Improvement for Institutions

To achieve the HeartCARE Center distinction, pair our accreditation services with additional solutions that are designed to further validate your objectives and advance your mission to save lives. These include:

NCDR®

NCDR is cardiology's most established and comprehensive suite of data registries. NCDR helps hospitals and private practices measure and improve the quality of care they provide. Registries cover a wide range of clinical topics and cardiovascular procedures, with each registry featuring standardized, evidence-based data elements and definitions. Additionally, business intelligence data reports and custom analytic solutions are available to provide greater clarity on many issues including safety, effectiveness, and quality.

Quality Campaigns

ACC's Quality Campaigns disseminate evidence-based strategies and toolkits, promote best practice sharing, and build nationwide learning networks. From reducing the bleed risk of cath lab patients to improving follow-up care for AMI patients, there's a campaign to help remedy unintentional outcomes.

Clinical Toolkits

ACC's Clinical Toolkits will help you implement guidelines-based and best practice care to better address common clinical issues at your facility. Many of the tools have been designed as easy-to-use apps that are available through the Mac App Store or Google Play.



Accredited hospitals report the following benefits:

- Better operating margins per patient
- Fewer readmissions and associated costs
- Improved patient satisfaction
- Improved interaction with external EMS

Education



ACC Accreditation Services offers multifaceted education for health care professionals:

ACC Quality Summit

This annual education event draws individuals who are passionate about advancing CV patient care. Attendees gain practical knowledge through participation in informative talks, panel discussions, networking, and poster events.

Topical CV Webinars

Specifically geared to the health care professional with an interest in the care of the cardiovascular patient, our webinar topics are current and cover a range of issues designed to optimize process and quality improvement.

Accreditation Training Webinars

On-demand training is available to those individuals who will lead their facility's accreditation program. A follow-on Q&A session allows participants to discuss specific questions about the accreditation process and to hear about the challenges and successes experienced by other facilities that have earned an accreditation.

Continuing Education Offering

Many of ACC's educational offerings provide CME, CNE, MOC, and/or AAPA credits for those seeking further professional development.

Support for Greater Heart Attack Awareness in Your Community



Defeating cardiovascular disease actually begins with early symptom recognition. That's why the "Early Heart Attack Care" (EHAC) initiative is incorporated into many of our awareness efforts. We work closely with health care facilities to educate the general public, including patients, educators, community leaders, and school-age children – your co-workers, neighbors, and family – to recognize the early warning signs, in themselves and in others, and to seek treatment as soon as possible. The EHAC initiative asks that everyone commit to save lives.

Because Every Heart Matters™

Working together as a TEAM, we strive to eliminate heart disease as the number one cause of death worldwide.

The American College of Cardiology is committed to leading the fight to eliminate heart disease as the number one cause of death worldwide. ACC Accreditation Services transforms cardiovascular care by assisting facilities in their efforts to connect quality and cost with outcomes and patient satisfaction.



ACC
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Services™

Accreditation.ACC.org

Phone: **614-442-5950**

Toll-free: **1-877-271-4176**