Demystifying the Accreditation Process

The NCCHC accreditation survey is recognized as the most rigorous and comprehensive of its kind. That’s why earning NCCHC accreditation is a significant achievement. A survey can seem daunting, but those who have been through the process consistently call it a positive experience. And NCCHC staff members provide help and support throughout the process. “It’s more a team effort than a test,” says Tracey Titus, RN, CCHP-RN, vice president of accreditation. “We don’t tell you how to run your facility; we give you guidance on how to set it up that works best for you.”

Step by Step
The first step is to obtain a copy of the relevant NCCHC Standards and review the facility’s compliance with them. Facilities are expected to comply with all applicable “essential” standards and at least 85% of “important” standards.

Next, you will submit an application, available online, signed by the person who is legally responsible for the facility. After receiving your application, NCCHC sends out a self-survey questionnaire, in which you provide information about your facility and its health services. That information helps both NCCHC and your facility prepare for the on-site survey.

A survey team of correctional health experts will be assigned to your facility, and a mutually agreed-upon date will be set — no surprise visits.

The survey itself involves an extensive review of health records, policies and procedures, and other documents; a facility tour; and interviews with health staff, administrators, custody staff and inmates. We let you know what documents to compile in advance.

Surveys typically last two to three days. You will receive preliminary feedback and have a chance to ask questions during an exit conference at the end.

Final results will be delivered after NCCHC’s accreditation committee carefully evaluates the survey report for compliance with the

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Revised 2018 Jail and Prison Standards to Be Previewed

Get a sneak peek at the newest NCCHC standards!

The 2018 editions of the renowned Standards for Health Services in Jails and Prisons will be previewed during an in-depth preconference seminar at the National Conference on Correctional Health Care, being held Nov. 4-8 in Chicago. Jeffrey Alvarez, MD, CCHP, director of Maricopa County Correctional Health Services, and Tracey Titus, RN, CCHP-RN, vice president of accreditation for NCCHC, will introduce the updated Standards and highlight important changes. The $195 seminar fee includes a copy of the relevant standards (jail or prison), which will be mailed to participants when published in early 2018.

For more information and to register, go to www.ncchc.org/national-conference.

New Accreditation Portal

NCCHC is streamlining the accreditation process.

By logging in to a new online portal, facilities will have access to all the information they need about their accreditation status.

Facility staff will be able to track where they stand in the process, take note of upcoming deadlines, upload requested documents, update contact information and work together on their application or Annual Maintenance Report.

Accredited facilities will soon be receiving an email with more information and log-in instructions so they can file their AMRs using the new system.

Watch your inbox!

Demystifying the Accreditation Process  continued from page 1

standards. Along with the decision, you will receive a comprehensive report with recommendations for continued compliance and quality improvement.

The survey cycle is typically every three years. All facilities must submit an annual maintenance report to confirm continuing compliance.

Accreditation signals a constitutionally acceptable level of care for inmates, which translates into improved health status, fewer grievances and lawsuits, and reduced health risk to the community when inmates are released. It’s well worth the effort.

For more information, visit www.ncchc.org, email accreditation@ncchc.org or call 773-880-1460.
5 Reasons to Support Quality Correctional Health Care

By providing quality health care, correctional facilities:

1. Comply with a legal responsibility under the U.S. Constitution
2. Provide basic clinical public health services such as identifying and managing infectious diseases
3. Reduce the expenses of poor health
4. Reduce legal liability
5. Support a secure and orderly environment

(From “Correctional Health Care Systems: Public Health Opportunities and Challenges,” presented by Brent Gibson, MD, MPH, CCHP-P, chief health officer, NCCHC, at the annual meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine, May 2017)

New and Updated Position Statements From NCCHC

New! Solitary Confinement (Isolation): 17-point statement calls for an end to prolonged solitary confinement; recommends that juveniles, mentally ill people and pregnant women be excluded altogether; and outlines health professionals’ role vis-à-vis isolation.

New! Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Adults and Adolescents: Recommendations address screening and identification, continuation/initiation of medication-assisted treatment, monitoring and withdrawal, prerelease initiation of treatment and care coordination, and linkage of medication treatment programs with nonpharmacological treatment.

Updated! Correctional Health Professionals’ Response to Inmate Abuse: Should correctional health staff witness or become aware of an inmate being subjected to harm, it is their duty to report this activity to the appropriate authorities in order to protect patients and other inmates.

Reaffirmed! Competency for Execution: The determination of whether an inmate is “competent for execution” should not be made by any health care professional regularly in the employ of, or under contract to provide health care with, the correctional institution or system holding the inmate.

NEW BOOKS on Correctional Health

“Jailcare: Finding the Safety Net for Women Behind Bars” by Carolyn Sufrin, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (University of California Press, 2017). Dr. Sufrin is the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists liaison to the NCCHC board of directors.


Did You Know?
The American Jail Association and the National Sheriffs’ Association are among NCCHC’s supporting organizations. A liaison from each supporting organization sits on the NCCHC board, creating a well-rounded multidisciplinary governance system.

**AJA liaison:** Oscar Aviles, CJM, CCE, CCHP, Assistant County Administrator, County of Hudson (NJ)

**NSA liaison:** B. J. Roberts, Sheriff, City of Hampton (VA)

**NCCHC will be speaking or exhibiting at:**
- South Carolina Jail Administrators’ Association, Myrtle Beach, SC (Sept. 17-20)
- New York State Jail Administrator’s Training Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY (Sept. 25-28)
- New Jersey County Jail Wardens Association, Atlantic City, NJ (Oct. 3-5)
- Indiana Criminal Justice Association Fall Meeting, Evansville, IN (Oct. 18-20)
- National Conference on Correctional Health Care, Chicago, IL (Nov. 4-8)

Interested in bringing NCCHC’s health care expertise to your event or meeting? Email info@ncchc.org.

Connect with NCCHC on social media to keep up with the latest correctional health news!
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