

Supporting Equity through Accreditation & Certification

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The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources

July 12, 2023



Who We Are and What We Do

The Joint Commission is the leader in standards development and evaluation of safety and quality through accreditation of health care organizations and certification of clinical programs.

While accreditation is mandatory for hospitals, the choice of The Joint Commission is voluntary. We set a higher bar by including standards above-and-beyond those required by the government to advance priorities like health care equity.



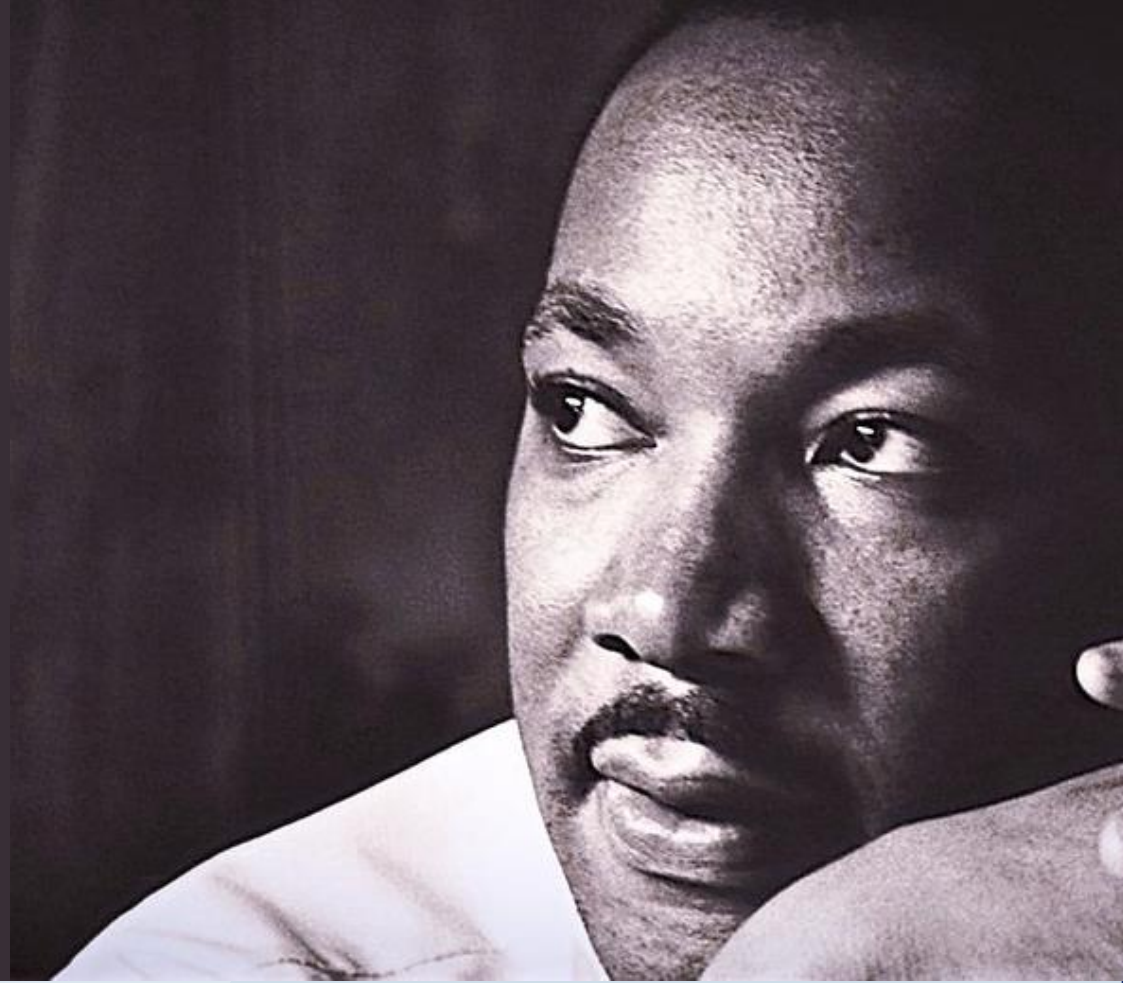
The Vision of The Joint Commission is:

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

Health Care Equity

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death.”

- Martin Luther King, Medical Committee for Human Rights, Chicago, 1966





Health Care Equity: An Accreditation Priority

Joint Commission Accreditation

- New and revised requirements to reduce health care disparities on Jan. 1, 2023
- Requirements elevated to National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) on July 1, 2023
- Health Care Equity Accreditation Resource Center
- Ability is included in definition and focus on reducing disparities





Health Care Equity: An Accreditation Priority

NPSG Elements of Performance:

- Identify an individual to lead activities to improve health care equity
- Assess patients' health-related social needs
- Analyze quality and safety data to identify disparities
- Develop an action plan to improve health care equity
- Take action when the organization does not meet the goals in its action plan
- Inform key stakeholders about progress to improve health care equity



Advanced Certification: Moving to Excellence

Joint Commission Certification

- Advanced Health Care Equity Certification launched July 1, 2023
- Health Care Equity Certification Resource Center

Certification Standards – Broad Principles

- Health care equity is a **strategic priority** for the organization.
- The organization **defines its leadership roles**.
- The organization **collaborates with patients, families, caregivers, and community** organizations to support health care equity.





Advanced Certification: Specific Requirements

- The organization **reviews data about the community** it serves to identify opportunities to improve health care equity.
- The organization **collects self-reported patient data** to identify opportunities to improve health care equity.
- The organization **collects self-reported data from its staff and leaders** to identify opportunities to improve health care equity.
- The organization **supports diversity, equity, and inclusion for its staff and leaders**.
- The organization **provides staff with the education and training** necessary to provide equitable care, treatment, and services.



Advanced Certification: Specific Requirements

- The organization communicates effectively with patients and families.
- The organization accommodates the needs of patients with physical, mental, communication, or cognitive disabilities.
- The organization addresses health-related social needs of its patients.
- At least annually, the organization analyzes its data to identify opportunities to improve the provision of equitable care, treatment, and services.
- The organization identifies opportunities to improve its efforts to address diversity, equity, and inclusion for its staff and leaders.



Partnering with State Hospital Associations to Accelerate Health Care Equity

Massachusetts 1115 Medicaid Waiver Program

- First program of its kind – setting precedent for other state Medicaid programs to follow
- 61 acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals commit to achieving Joint Commission Health Care Equity Certification
- Initial evaluations for compliance by EOY 2023





Environmental Sustainability is a Health Equity Issue

The same Social Determinants that confer adverse health risk also confer risk from effects of climate change.

- An inadvertent consequence of healthcare is environmental harm: ~9% Greenhouse Gasses

The Joint Commission committed to environmental sustainability by signing The White House Health Sector Climate Pledge. We will be releasing voluntary requirements and launching a Resource Center



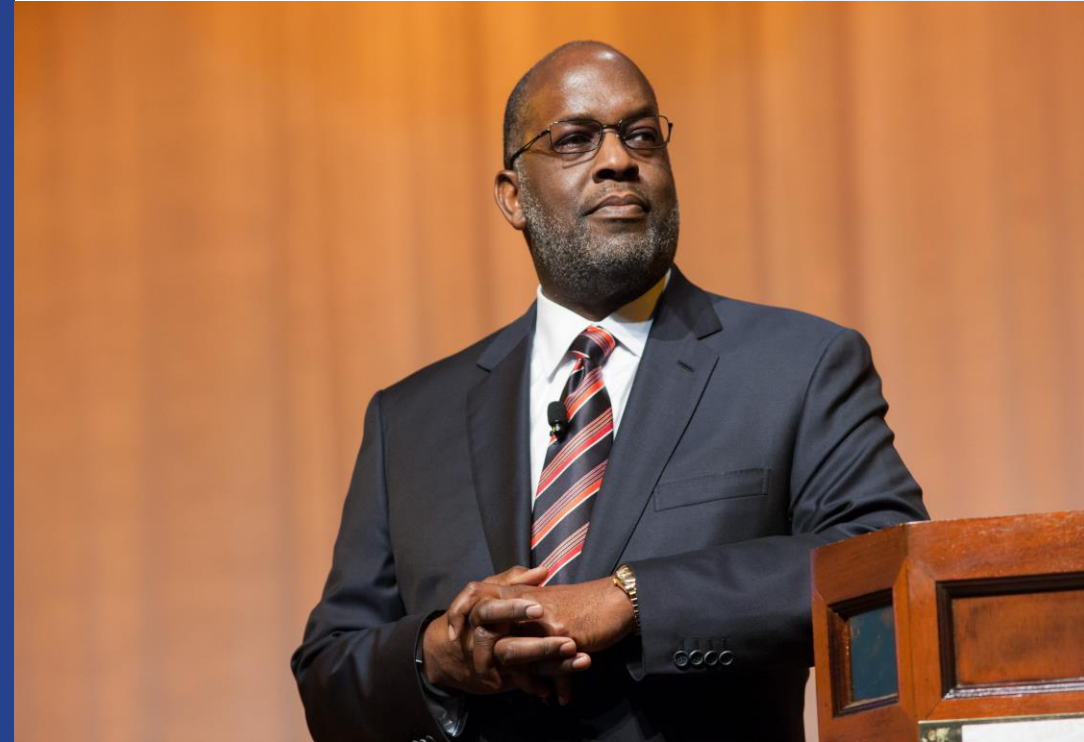


Bernard J. Tyson Award

Award Criteria:

- Organization delivers direct patient care.
- Achieved measurable, sustained reduction in one or more health care disparities.
- Targeted specific vulnerable population.
- Documented measurable improvement.

2023 application period closed May 24. Winners will be announced fall 2023.



Thank You!

For partnering with health care professionals and organizations to achieve a shared vision . . .

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

For more information: www.jointcommission.org/our-priorities/health-care-equity