

Joint Commission Accreditation Readiness Checklist

For behavioral health programs pursuing the Gold Seal. Use it to build continuous readiness, not a survey-week scramble. Accreditation is a way of running a program, not a certificate on the wall.

THE MINDSET: Surveys are often unannounced and cycle roughly every three years. The programs that pass are ready every day, because their standards, documentation, and safety practices hold up without a scramble.

1. Standards and documentation

- ☐ Policies and procedures mapped to the current behavioral health care standards
- ☐ Assessments, treatment plans, and progress notes complete, timely, and consistent
- ☐ Clinical records show the golden thread from assessment to treatment plan to discharge

2. National Patient Safety Goals

- ☐ Two patient identifiers used correctly across the program
- ☐ Suicide risk screening and safety planning in place and documented
- ☐ Medication management and reconciliation processes followed and recorded

3. Environment of care and safety