



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary*

**Licensure Guidance for Maryland Hospitals That Operate  
Outpatient Behavioral Health Programs**

Effective January 1, 2018, community-based behavioral health programs must be accredited under the Behavioral Health standards of an approved accreditation organization to be licensed in Maryland. This new regulation has caused some confusion with Maryland hospitals that have historically had these programs surveyed under The Joint Commission Hospital standards.

It should be noted that in accordance with COMAR 10.63, all off-campus community-based hospital owned and operated programs will be required to be surveyed under The Joint Commission's Behavioral Health standards in order to be licensed in the state of Maryland after January 1, 2018.

For programs operated on a hospital campus, the following criteria should be used to rule out whether that program requires the additional state behavioral health license and survey by The Joint Commission.

1. The program is currently accredited under the Joint Commission Hospital standards.
2. The program is located on the hospital campus in regulated hospital space.
3. The program bills for services under the hospital's Medicare/ Medicaid certification number.

Please note due to other regulatory requirements, hospital-based substance abuse programs may still require a state license from the Behavioral Health Administration even if on the hospital campus and as such, may be required to provide evidence that it has had a behavioral health accreditation survey for that program to obtain that license. Please consult with the Office of Health Care Quality for assistance on these programs.

As the services offered by hospitals vary and may not be addressed by the above criteria, Renee Webster, Assistant Director for Hospitals at the Office of Health Care Quality, may be contacted to discuss the hospital's questions at 410-402-8090 or [renee.webster@maryland.gov](mailto:renee.webster@maryland.gov)

Date Issued: July 28, 2017

