

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Advisory no: A15/01

TITLE	Transitioning between accrediting agencies
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COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ADVISORY	Mandatory for accrediting agencies
APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY	Chief Operating Officer
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INFORMATION IN THIS ADVISORY APPLIES TO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All approved accrediting agencies• Health service organisations, including hospitals, day procedure services and dental practices
KEY RELATIONSHIP	n/a
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LINKAGES TO OTHER ADVISORIES and/or DOCUMENTATION	n/a
ATTACHMENT	n/a
NOTES (if applicable)	n/a

Transitioning between accrediting agencies

PURPOSE:

To clarify for accrediting agencies and health service organisations their responsibilities and the recommended processes to be followed when health services change accrediting agencies.

ISSUE:

Accrediting agencies, health departments and health service organisations have raised concerns about the movement of health service organisations between accrediting agencies with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission).

While the Commission has the responsibility for developing and maintaining the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, state and territory health departments are responsible for regulating assessment of the NSQHS Standards in their jurisdiction.

Definitions:

The *initial accrediting agency* cancels a health service organisation's membership.

The *receiving accrediting agency* enrolls the health service organisation following cancellation of their membership with another accrediting agency.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. The initial and receiving accrediting agencies are required to notify the Commission of ceased and new members as part of their routine reporting cycle, in the first report after the confirmation of the change in membership.
2. The initial accrediting agency may withdraw an accreditation award if the contract signed by the health service organisation with an accrediting agency has provisions for withdrawing an accreditation certificate.
3. For the purposes of the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme, the relocating health service organisation remains accredited where they have:
 - a. signed a contract with the receiving accrediting agency just prior to or immediately following cancellation of membership with the initial accrediting agency
 - b. if the state or territory health department accepts the health service organisation's transition to another accrediting agency
 - c. maintained their existing accreditation cycle and have no outstanding actions or obligations to the initial accrediting agency.
4. Where the health service organisation enrolls with a receiving accrediting agency, the receiving accrediting agency is required to continue the cycle of the health service organisation's existing accreditation and timing of the accreditation cycle.

5. The Commission recommends that the health service organisation provides their receiving accrediting agency with a copy of their most recent assessment report from the initial accrediting agency so that there can be continuity of process.
6. Where a health service organisation seeks to change accrediting agency during an assessment, both the initial and receiving accrediting agencies must notify the Commission within 48 hours.