

# Community-Based Palliative Care Certification

For Home Health and Hospice Providers  
Affiliated with Blue Shield of California



**Blue Shield of California is collaborating with The Joint Commission in its effort to help ensure quality care for people with serious illness and provide all its members expanded access to high-quality palliative care programs.**

Building upon their access to home-based palliative care, Blue Shield of California is proud of the quality of their provider partners and wants to help ensure that they maintain that standard of care for their members over time by collaborating with The Joint Commission.

This is a unique opportunity to leverage your participation in the Blue Shield of California provider network by becoming Joint Commission accredited and Community-Based Palliative Care certified.

## Why Joint Commission?

### 1. Improved Performance

According to a recent comparative analysis of the CMS Home Health Compare data set, Joint Commission-accredited home health providers perform statistically better on key CMS 5-Star quality measures.\*

### 2. An Unmatched Quality Framework

Developed and vetted by a team of your peers and our home health industry experts, Joint Commission standards are the industry's most widely recognized roadmap to achieve performance excellence. Access a free trial on [www.jointcommission.org/homecare](http://www.jointcommission.org/homecare).

### 3. Solution-focused Onsite Survey Experience

Relevant, educational, actionable. Our surveyors create a collaborative learning environment focused on best practices and hands-on learning opportunities for your entire team.



**MORE STARS**



**BETTER MOBILITY**



**FEWER ER VISITS & READMISSIONS**

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Effective January 1, 2020, home health and hospice agencies delivering home-based palliative care services will be required to achieve Joint Commission Community-Based Palliative Care Certification in order to join or stay in the California Blue Shield network of home-based palliative care providers.

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## Joint Commission Community-Based Palliative Care Certification

The first of its kind in the industry, Joint Commission Community-Based Palliative Care Certification allows organizations to incorporate the use of nationally accepted standards of care, industry expertise and vast resources that provides unparalleled support to your company's efforts to deliver safe, high quality community-based palliative care services.

### Eligibility

Home health or hospice providers seeking certification must provide community-based palliative care outside the hospital setting, specifically within a patient's residence. Patient residences can include assisted living facilities. Services provided should be available to patients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (with after-hours service availability).

### For currently accredited Joint Commission organizations

Joint Commission-accredited home health or hospice providers can pursue certification at their upcoming resurvey or between surveys.

### For non-accredited organizations

Home health or hospice providers not yet accredited have the option to pursue certification in addition to accreditation at their initial survey.

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## NEXT STEPS

**Call 630.792.5070 to get your specific questions answered by our experts.**  
**Write to us at [homecare@jointcommission.org](mailto:homecare@jointcommission.org)**

*\*Source: The Joint Commission research team recently completed a new study that has now been published in the journal Home Health Care Management and Practice – Comparing Public Quality Ratings for Accredited and Nonaccredited Home Health Agencies Scott C. Williams, PsyD1, David J. Morton, PhD1, Susan Yendro, RN, MSN1, and David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP1 Home Health Care Management & Practice 1-7 First Published November 3, 2017 Research Article*