



MassHealth Quality and Equity Incentive Program (QEIP)

Program:	Hospital QEIP
Performance Year:	4
Metric:	Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity
Deliverable:	The Joint Commission (TJC) Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification Maintenance Report
Submission Portal:	OnBase
Submission Due Date:	January 31, 2027
File Naming Convention:	HospitalAbbreviation_TJC-HCE-Progress-Report_MMDDYYYY
Suggested Page Limit:	2-3

Summary

The Joint Commission (TJC) introduced new and revised requirements to reduce health care disparities for organizations participating in its hospital accreditation program (effective January 1, 2023). The new accreditation standards aim to reduce health care disparities as a quality and safety priority. These equity-focused Accreditation standards are intended to serve as a foundation for TJC's planned Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification. Assessment of hospital progress towards and achievement of TJC's requirements for its voluntary HCE Certification, or referred to as the Excellent Health Outcomes for All (EHOA) Certification¹, intends to recognize acute hospitals that go above and beyond to provide high quality and equitable care.

Reporting Template

Contact Information

Point of Contact Name:	Add text
Organization Name:	Add text
Point of Contact Email Address:	Add text

Introduction

As part of the Hospital Quality and Equity Incentive Program (HQEIP), Hospitals, including any of their additional acute care hospital sites, were expected to achieve HCE certification by Performance Year 3 (Calendar Year 2025) and are expected to apply for re-certification by Performance Year 5 (Calendar Year 2027).

For Performance Year 4 (Calendar Year 2026), The Joint Commission (TJC) Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification Maintenance Report requests that Hospitals, including any of their additional acute care hospital sites, maintain their HCE Certification as demonstrated by:

1. Completion of an Intracycle Monitoring Call with The Joint Commission; and
2. Re-applying to The Joint Commission for the next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification,² as applicable per the HCE expiration date.

Hospitals and, as applicable, their additional acute care hospital sites, must fulfill all requirements listed above by December 31, 2026.

If the Hospital, including any of their additional acute care hospital sites, achieved HCE Certification in Performance Year 2 (Calendar Year 2024), they must achieve EHOA² re-certification in Performance Year 4 (Calendar Year 2026) demonstrated by:

¹ Effective February 2026, per The Joint Commission, the Health Care Equity Certification (HCE) has been renamed as Excellent Health Outcomes for All (EHOA) Certification

² Formerly the HCE Certification

1. Re-applying to The Joint Commission for the next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification³ (for hospitals that did not re-apply during previous PY)
2. Completion of Joint Commission EHOA re-certification³ review (typically occurs +/- 45 days of the 2-year anniversary of the original certification decision);
3. Completion of the Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) process for any identified Requirements for Improvement (if applicable); and
4. Receipt of a EHOA re-certification³ decision of “Certified.”

A complete, responsive, and timely submission will be submitted to MassHealth by January 31, 2027, and will include responses to all the applicable questions in the report template below.

³ Formerly the HCE Certification

Section 1: The Joint Commission Health Care Equity Certification

1. Does your Hospital organization operate additional acute care hospital sites? For example, multiple campuses listed on the Hospital's Department of Public Health license.

☐ Yes

If yes, list the additional acute hospital site names: _____

Please respond to all the following questions for the Hospital and all acute hospital sites under the broader Hospital organization.

☐ No

2. Please state the date(s) the Hospital (and hospital sites, if applicable) achieved TJC's HCE Certification in the table below. *Please be sure to list the certification date and not the notification date.*

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	Please state the date certification was achieved

Instructions:

If the Hospital achieved HCE Certification during Calendar Year (CY) 2025, please complete questions #1 & 2 in Section 1a.

If Hospital achieved HCE Certification during CY 2024, please skip Section 1a and complete questions #3-6 in Section 1b.

Section 1a. Maintenance of HCE Certification (HCE Certification in 2025)

1. Has the Hospital completed an Intracycle Monitoring Call with TJC by December 31, 2026?

Please complete the table below.

Please also upload a copy of the Hospital's award letter to OnBase to confirm you have been certified.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	Intracycle monitoring call completed by 12/31/26?: Yes or No	If, 'Yes,' please state the date of the call	If 'No,' please explain

2. Has the Hospital submitted an application re-applying for the next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification to TJC by December 31, 2026, as applicable per initial HCE certification date? Please complete the table below. If re-application was not applicable for calendar year 2026, please write 'N/A' in the table below.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	Application for next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification submitted by 12/31/26?: Yes or No	If, 'Yes,' please state the date on which the application was submitted	If 'No,' please explain

Section 1b. EHOA Re-Certification in 2026 (HCE Certification in 2024)

3. If Hospital did not re-apply during calendar 2025, has the Hospital submitted an application re-applying for the next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification to TJC by December 31, 2026? Please complete the table below. If re-application was not applicable for calendar year 2026, please write 'N/A' in the table below.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	Application for next 2-year cycle of EHOA Certification submitted by 12/31/26?: Yes or No?	If, 'Yes,' please state the date on which the application was submitted	If 'No,' please explain

4. Has TJC completed the review for EHOA re-Certification for the Hospital by December 31, 2026? Reviews are typically conducted +/- 45 days of the 2-year anniversary of the original certification date. Please complete the table below.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	TJC review for EHOA re-Certification completed by 12/31/26: Yes or No?	If, 'Yes,' please provide date on which TJC completed the review	If 'No,' please explain

5. Has the Hospital completed the Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) process for any cited Requirements for Improvement (RFI) by December 31, 2026? The ESC submission is required if TJC has identified RFI(s). If TJC has not reported any RFI(s) for the Hospital, please write 'N/A.' Please complete the table below.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	ESC completed: Yes, No, or N/A?	If, 'Yes,' please indicate that the ESC is attached	If 'No,' please explain

6. Has the Hospital achieved TJC's EHOA Certification by December 31, 2026? Please complete the table below.

Please also upload a copy of the Hospital's award letter to OnBase to confirm you have been certified.

Hospital, and if applicable, hospital site name(s)	Achieved EHOA certification?: Yes or No?	If, 'Yes,' please state the date certification was achieved	If 'No,' please explain