



## Revised Standards for Accreditation Overview

### *Focus on Complete Patient Care and Safety*

June 2016

On June 27, 2016, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine announced final revisions to its *Standards for Accreditation* of sleep facilities and Independent Sleep Practices (formerly HSAT Stand-Alone programs). The proposed revisions had been made available by the AASM for a public comment period in fall 2015, and AASM members and accredited facilities were invited to provide feedback. The AASM thoroughly reviewed and considered all submitted comments and revised the *Standards for Accreditation* to address concerns brought forth by this input.

#### **Aligned with current practice models**

The revised standards align with current models of clinical practice, which emphasize high quality, patient-centered care and long-term disease management. There are now two separate sets of Standards:

- Standards for Accreditation; and
- Independent Sleep Practice Standards for Accreditation.

By meeting the AASM Standards for Accreditation, sleep facilities are accredited for all types of sleep testing, including PSG, MSLT, MWT and HSAT. By meeting the Independent Sleep Practice Standards for Accreditation, sleep practices are accredited only for HSAT. Both accreditation programs require the sleep entity to be able to provide comprehensive patient management for all sleep disorders.

This overview summarizes the changes in the revised [Standards for Accreditation](#) and new [Independent Sleep Practice Standards for Accreditation](#). For a list of key standard changes, please review the [Accreditation Standards Revision At-A-Glance Changes](#).

#### **Focus on Safety**

New requirements have been added to the standards to ensure a high degree of safety for patients and staff within the sleep facility, including adherence to safety regulations, expanded employee and patient protections, and precautionary safety measures.

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## How do the revised standards affect you?

#### **New Application**

A new version of the Accreditation Application will be available September 1, 2016. Starting September 1, new applicants and reaccrediting centers may choose to apply through *either* the 2014 *or* newly revised 2016 accreditation application/standards. Applications corresponding to the 2014 standards will be accepted through December 31, 2016. Beginning January 1, 2017, *only* accreditation applications corresponding to the 2016 standards will be accepted, regardless of accreditation type.

#### **Compliance Deadline**

All accredited facilities must be compliant with the revised 2016 *Standards for Accreditation* by July 1, 2017. All facilities accredited by the AASM who have not completed a reaccreditation application under the revised standards by July 1, 2017 must submit an attestation letter to the AASM attesting their compliance to the revised accreditation standards by July 1, 2017, regardless of original accreditation approval date. A template attestation form will be available from the AASM.

#### **Independent Sleep Practice Applicants**

The opportunity to apply for Independent Sleep Practice accreditation is now available to sleep practices that treat all sleep disorders and provide home sleep apnea testing (HSAT) to their patients but do not have a lab for overnight testing. This accreditation replaces the current Stand-Alone HSAT program accreditation. Currently accredited Stand-Alone HSAT programs will remain accredited under this new program through their current expiration dates.

For more information about accreditation, please visit [www.aasmnet.org/accreditation.aspx](http://www.aasmnet.org/accreditation.aspx) or contact the AASM Accreditation Department at [accreditation@aasmnet.org](mailto:accreditation@aasmnet.org) or 630-737-9700.