

*American Academy
of Sleep Medicine*
ACCREDITATION



Established Standards for Quality Care

Since 1977



WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?



Accreditation is a voluntary process for the assessment of sleep programs. By achieving accreditation, a sleep facility demonstrates a commitment to the provision of quality diagnostic services and the longitudinal management of sleep patients. In a growing number of states, accreditation is required for reimbursement of many sleep medicine services.

Accreditation & Patient Care

Sleep center accreditation acts as an indicator to patients and referring physicians that a facility is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care.

Accreditation & Reimbursement

Recognizing that accreditation leads to improvements in patient care, many Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) providers have begun to make accreditation a requirement for reimbursement of sleep medicine services. Additionally, private insurers are increasingly adopting similar requirements.

What is AASM Accreditation?

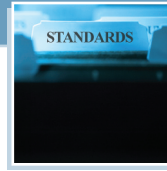
The AASM is the professional medical association representing practitioners of sleep medicine and sleep research. The AASM is dedicated to the assurance of quality care for patients with sleep disorders, advancement of sleep research, and promotion of public and professional education. The AASM accreditation process is based on the AASM's *Standards for Accreditation*.

Standards for Accreditation

The AASM *Standards for Accreditation* have been developed for the primary purpose of ensuring the highest quality of care is delivered to sleep disorders patients. Areas in which centers must demonstrate compliance to earn accreditation include:

- Personnel
- Patient Policies
- Facility and Equipment
- Policies and Procedures
- Data Acquisition, Scoring and Reporting
- Patient Evaluation and Care
- Patient Records
- Emergency Procedures
- Quality Assurance

WHY CHOOSE AASM ACCREDITATION?



*Since 1977, the AASM has accredited sleep facilities utilizing the Standards for Accreditation. The continued quality of these requirements has made AASM accreditation the **gold standard** by which the medical community and the public evaluate sleep medicine facilities. This is reflected in many states by third-party payers requiring, for reimbursement, that sleep services be conducted at an AASM-accredited facility.*

AASM Accreditation & Patient Care

As the primary professional association for sleep medicine, the AASM has earned recognition for our commitment to advance the field and improve patient care. This commitment is illustrated by the AASM's efforts to develop and publish evidence-based practice parameters and provide sleep medicine practitioners with educational and practice management resources to improve patient care.

AASM accreditation also reflects this commitment. The *Standards for Accreditation*, and the guidelines incorporated in them, were developed by sleep medicine specialists whose knowledge enables them to tailor the requirements for the unique evaluation of sleep disorders patients. These requirements

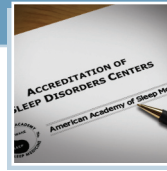
are regularly reviewed and updated to incorporate the latest advances in sleep medicine, and are designed to guarantee quality and meet the needs of patients and referring physicians.

AASM Accreditation & Reimbursement

Public and private health insurance providers alike seek to ensure that the services for which they reimburse are being performed at a facility that meets high standards of patient care. To accomplish this, more and more of these insurers are requiring that polysomnographic services be performed at an accredited facility.

With more than three decades of experience in the accreditation of sleep medicine facilities, the AASM leads the list of accreditation providers that are accepted by these insurers. The AASM's time-tested commitment to providing comprehensive, relevant and quality standards for practice ensures that AASM accreditation will continue to serve as the benchmark for quality accreditation for years to come.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR AASM ACCREDITATION?



AASM accreditation is granted to sleep disorders centers that demonstrate compliance with all of the AASM's Standards for Accreditation. This process includes the completion of an accreditation application and supporting documentation, a site visit, and reaccreditation every five years.

Application

Centers seeking AASM accreditation must complete an application found on the AASM Web site at www.aasmnet.org/AccredApplication.aspx. The application includes a self-assessment checklist that indicates general compliance with all of the *Standards for Accreditation*. It also requires submission of supporting documentation including a copy of the medical director's current license, center policies and procedures, and sample cases of common sleep disorders evaluated and treated by the sleep center's professional staff.

Review and Site Visit

After completing the application, it is sent to the national office and reviewed. If the application indicates substantial compliance with the current *Standards for Accreditation*, the center will be approved for a site visit. In some cases, additional information may be requested before site visit approval. When all requested application materials are received,

the national office will schedule a site visit. All site visitors are board-certified sleep specialists and are current or previous medical directors or directors of AASM accredited centers. The site visit generally begins at 8 a.m. and is usually completed by 2 p.m.

Approval and Reaccreditation

Following the site visit, the site visitor submits a report of compliance and non-compliance with the *Standards for Accreditation*. The AASM Board of Directors is responsible for granting accreditation based on the feedback obtained from the site visitor and the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee. The center will receive notice of accreditation status from the Board of Directors. Accreditation is granted for a period of five years from the date of the site visit. To maintain accredited status, centers must apply for reaccreditation every five years.

Center Membership

Once a center is accredited by the AASM, it is given the opportunity to become a center member of the AASM. Center membership provides many promotional and practice management benefits to accredited facilities including a listing on www.sleepcenters.org, use of the AASM Accredited Member logo, e-mail updates, discounts, and significantly reduced reaccreditation fees.

WHERE IS MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE?

Information regarding accreditation by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) is available on the AASM Web site, www.aasmnet.org:

- **Standards for Accreditation:**
www.aasmnet.org/AccredStandards.aspx
- **The Application Process:**
www.aasmnet.org/AccredProcess.aspx
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**
www.aasmnet.org/AccredFAQs.aspx
- **Accreditation Application:**
www.aasmnet.org/AccredApplication.aspx

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