



# Overview of New Model of Accreditation

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) is moving to a service-based model of accreditation that more accurately reflects the evolving practice of sleep medicine and aligns more seamlessly with the [Accreditation Networks](#) framework. The service-based accreditation system will provide greater flexibility to accommodate all practice models. The following overview describes why the change will be made and explains how it differs from the current accreditation model.

## New Accreditation Framework

In the field of sleep medicine, larger hospital, or physician groups with multiple clinics and/or labs (complex health systems) are becoming more prevalent. Smaller sleep practices also are leveraging technology to expand their reach with less dependence on physical infrastructure. These sleep programs are finding creative ways to reach patients, which has resulted in various practice models.

AASM is adjusting its accreditation program to better fit more practice models in the evolving sleep medicine practice environment. These adjustments will ultimately simplify accreditation by allowing facilities to customize their accreditation for their specific practice model.

The adjustments start by making the sleep clinic the center of AASM accreditation. As reimbursement continues to move towards quality/value-based payment models, shifting our focus on quality clinical care (beyond testing) will position AASM accredited programs for potential changes in reimbursements and continues to identify these programs as leaders in the field of sleep medicine. By identifying the clinic location in the accreditation application:

- The public (patients, referring providers, payors) will be able to distinguish an AASM accredited clinic vs. a non-AASM accredited clinic by being listed on [AASM's Accreditation Verification](#) and [sleepeducation.org](#) webpages.
- The relationship between the clinic and diagnostic services (in-lab test, HSAT) will easily be identified. This will improve the application process and ensure patients are properly managed for quality patient outcomes.
- The Standards for Accreditation clearly identifies the clinic's responsibilities and the diagnostic service (in-lab test, HSAT) responsibilities. This will improve operations and communications for improved continuity of care.

With the clinic (location(s)) identified in application separate from the sleep lab (location(s)), the public will have a greater understanding of your practice model and you will be able to demonstrate your commitment more easily to providing excellent care.

## Comparison Between Frameworks

The current AASM accreditation framework consists of four accreditation programs: Sleep Facility, Independent Sleep Practice, DME Suppliers, and Specialty Practice. With the new framework, there are no significant changes to Specialty Practice accreditations. The three most affected programs are Sleep Facility, Independent Sleep Practice and DME accreditation.

## Sleep Facility Accreditation

With the current framework, Sleep Facility accreditation consists of standards mostly impacting diagnostic in-lab testing, HSAT and physical characteristics of a sleep lab. With this framework, a Sleep Facility is defined as a single lab (with in-lab testing and HSAT) connected to a single clinic.

Under the new framework, an Accreditation Network is free to have multiple in-lab testing or HSAT service locations connected to a single sleep clinic location, or conversely, multiple sleep clinics tied to a single in-lab testing or HSAT service location. This modular approach reinvents relationships between services, allowing multiple practice models to easily become accredited, as long as there is at least one sleep clinic, one sleep lab and one HSAT service connected.

## Independent Sleep Practice

With the current framework, Independent Sleep Practice standards are designed around HSAT and do not contain standards for a physical sleep lab.

Under the new framework, the diagnostic HSAT service is separated from the sleep clinic-related standards so that multiple sleep clinic locations can share a single HSAT service location, or conversely, multiple HSAT service locations can share a single sleep clinic location as long as there is at least one sleep clinic and one HSAT service connected.

## Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier

With the current framework, DME Supplier standards are independent from any sleep clinic requirements and include 32 DME standard requirements.

Under the new framework, the DME supplier requires association with a sleep clinic and has significant reduction to the standard requirements. These changes greatly simplify the DME requirements and application process. A DME Supplier service location can be shared with a single sleep clinic service location, or conversely, multiple sleep clinic locations can share a single DME Supplier service location.

## Framework Comparison Summary

The new modular-based AASM accreditation allows sleep practices to mix and match, add or remove the following services within their Accreditation Network, as long as the minimum relationship requirements (identified above) are met:

- Sleep Clinic
- Diagnostic
  - In-lab Testing
  - Home Sleep Apnea Testing
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier

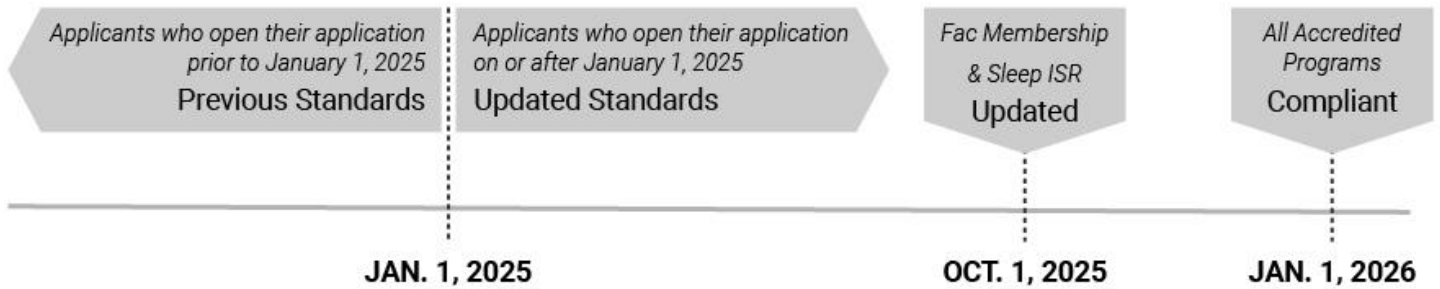
Whether you have just a couple of these services or multiples of each service, AASM has an accreditation package that will be a perfect fit for your sleep practice.

## Accreditation Fees

With the release of the new model of accreditation, the fee structure for Accreditation will change to align with the new accreditation model. Details of these changes can be found on the AASM New Model [webpage](#).

## Timeline

Applicants who open their application on or after January 1, 2025, will complete their application under the updated standards. Applicants who open their application prior to January 1, 2025, will complete the remainder of their application under the previous standards. All AASM-accredited programs must be in compliance with the new Standards for Accreditation by January 1, 2026.



## Questions

Questions regarding any of these changes can be directed to the appropriate corresponding departments:

Accreditation: [accreditation@aasm.org](mailto:accreditation@aasm.org)

Membership: [membership@aasm.org](mailto:membership@aasm.org)