

## Joint Commission International Accreditation: A breakthrough in Pakistan

Malik Muhammad Ali Awan <sup>1</sup>, Sidra Qureshi <sup>2</sup>, Kiran Khushnood <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, ISRA University, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup> Demonstrator/OBS & GYN Physical Therapist, Foundation University, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Neuro Rehab, ISRA University, Islamabad, Pakistan

---

### Author's Contribution

<sup>1</sup> Concept, design & accountable for all the work

<sup>2</sup> Drafting, revision & accountable for all the work

<sup>3</sup> Critical analysis, final approval & accountable for all the work

---

### Article Info.

Conflict of interest: Nil

Funding Sources: Nil

---

### Correspondence

Sidra Qureshi

[dr.sidraqureshi92@gmail.com](mailto:dr.sidraqureshi92@gmail.com)

**Cite this article as:** Awan A. Qureshi S. Khushnood K. Joint Commission International Accreditation: A breakthrough in Pakistan. *JSTMU*. 2020; 3(2):136-137.

Joint commission international (JCI) is model of excellence for healthcare all around the world. It determines the most effective pattern of working to rule out quality of treatment and steps taken in regard of patients' safety.<sup>1</sup> enhancing the quality of healthcare organizations started right after the beginning of 20th century. Initially Joint Commission on accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO) was formed in 1951; it only accredited the healthcare setups and medical centers in the United States of America (USA). Afterwards, in 1991 with an increasing need for improving the quality standards of health care across the globe, JCI was founded. Now internationally JCI accredits the hospitals that are providing the quality medical services to the patients.<sup>2</sup> currently there are 1081 hospitals all over the world which are accredited by JCI. If we talk about South Asia a total of 47 hospitals are there that are commissioned or accredited by JCI and moving towards our country Pakistan, there are only 4 hospitals that are accredited by JCI.<sup>3</sup> As we see that most of the world is moving towards acquiring JCI accreditation, hospitals and healthcare

setups all over the world are taking steps to assure patient's satisfaction by improving the quality of their medical services. If hospitals are accredited by JCI, both patients and hospitals will benefit in a way that the patients' health status will enhance as well as the reputation of healthcare system of Pakistan. The four hospitals that are JCI accredited in Pakistan are; Agha Khan University Hospital Karachi, Shifa International Hospitals Ltd. Islamabad, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre Lahore and Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre Peshawar.<sup>4</sup> In our country it is the need of hour to improve quality of medical services and patients' satisfaction in both public and private sector hospitals, though the quality of medical services is improving in private hospitals but they are not cost-effective considering the fact that most people in our country are unable to afford them. To conclude, JCI accreditation is an important milestone in health care management system of Pakistan. The professionals working in JCI accredited health care organizations are aware of its significance and implications on the quality of health care in Pakistan. However, health professionals associated with organizations that are not JCI accredited are not aware of the standards that are used by it to ensure quality health care, infection control and patient safety. Furthermore, it has also shed a light on the fact that top notch health care is seldom available to the masses. Emphasis should be placed on the government to accredit the public sector hospitals with JCI in order to provide common man with premium quality of health care services.

Keeping in view all the benefits of JCI accreditation, it is highly recommended that government should seek

assistance of the hospitals that are already accredited by JCI in accrediting public sector hospitals.

---

## References

---

1. International JC. Who is JCI. (cited 2019 Oct 2): Available from: <https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/about-jci/who-is-jci/>.
2. Barghouthi EaD, Imam A. Patient Satisfaction: Comparative Study between Joint Commission International Accredited and Non-accredited Palestinian Hospitals. Health Science Journal. 2018; 12(1).  
<https://dspace.alquds.edu/handle/20.500.12213/5047>
3. International JC. JCI-Accredited Organizations. Available from: <https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/about-jci/jci-accredited-organizations/>.
4. JCI-Accredited Organizations. Joint Commission Resources. Available from: [https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/about-jci/jci-accredited-organizations/#:\\_Facet\\_Country=\[Pakistan\]/](https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/about-jci/jci-accredited-organizations/#:_Facet_Country=[Pakistan]/).