

**ACCF International Program Requirements**  
**Updated on 2/27/26**

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## **ACCF Accreditation Services Program Requirements**

*The contents of this document and the related procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the American College of Cardiology Foundation (“ACCF”). Confidential and Proprietary Information of ACCF.*

### **1.0 American College of Cardiology Foundation Accreditation Services**

The American College of Cardiology Foundation (“ACCF”) offers a variety of Accreditation and Certification products to hospitals located outside of the United States as part of the ACCF’s Global Quality Programs (the “Quality Programs”). In this Program Requirements Document, Accreditation, Certification, Designation, and Distinction will be referred to collectively as “Accreditation”. Current ACCF Accreditation Program offerings include the programs listed below, and the Program Requirements within this document apply to each of these programs.

- Cardiac Cath Lab
- Chest Pain Center
- Electrophysiology
- Heart Failure
- Transcatheter Valve Certification
- International Center of Excellence
- Partner in Care Designation

### **2.0 Accreditation Program Requirements**

ACCF recognizes the importance of Accreditation to the International Facility (“Facility”) seeking Accreditation and is committed to providing a broad range of resources, tools, and personnel to assist with improving patient outcomes and process efficiencies in the cardiovascular areas for which ACCF has developed an Accreditation designation. ACCF strives to make the Accreditation process as collegial and collaborative as possible and provides Accreditation Review Specialists (“ARS”) who are specifically trained and educated to conduct a comprehensive review of Facility’s processes.

By signing the Global Quality Programs Master Agreement (the “Agreement”) and indicating the Accreditation Program(s) in which the Facility wishes to participate, the Facility agrees to comply with the Agreement and this Program Requirement document. ACCF may update the requirements outlined in this Program Requirements document and will notify the Facility when the Program Requirements have been modified. The Facility is required to comply with any such modifications to the Program Requirements following notification from ACCF and continued participation in Accreditation constitutes Facility’s acceptance of the Program Requirements modifications.

### Accreditation Program Management:

Each participating Facility must designate and provide contact information for each Accreditation Program as required in the respective Program offering(s) to include, but not limited to the following:

**Key Contact** —The Key Contact is the primary point of contact for the Facility for an assigned Accreditation Program and will coordinate the Accreditation activities and receive updates on behalf of the Facility. The Key Contact will be given access to the purchased Accreditation tool(s) upon receipt by ACCF of the executed Agreement and payment.

**Executive Sponsor** —The Executive Sponsor will ensure adequate resources are in place to support Accreditation activities at the Facility.

**Invoicing/Payment Contact** — The individual point of contact in the Facility department responsible for annual fees, reimbursement for in-person site reviews and questions related to invoices. The designated individual is responsible for financial oversight of the Accreditation program and should work in a partnered relationship with the Key Contact and Executive Sponsor.

**Marketing Contact** —The Marketing Contact is the point of contact for all Facility marketing needs.

**Accreditation User** — The Accreditation User is an identified individual with access to the specific Accreditation Program. A minimum of one (1) user is required per Accreditation Program. Additional Users may be added upon written request from the Key Contact.

- The Facility is required to provide a valid and unique email address for all designated contacts at the participating Facility. The email addresses will be used to communicate relevant Accreditation Program information.
- The Facility is responsible for contacting ACCF upon any changes in name, address, phone number, or email of any designated contacts. If there is a change in the physical location of the Facility, ACCF may require an additional Site Review to determine continued compliance with Accreditation Program requirements and standards, and the Facility will be responsible for any associated costs of the Site Review.
- Any Facility found deficient in any Accreditation criteria will be provided with detailed instructions for becoming compliant.
- The Facility is expected to stay up to date with all instructions published by ACCF and posted within each Accreditation Tool on the private side of the Accreditation website.

### Publication of Data

- The Facility may use the information provided by ACCF for internal purposes only; such information shall not be distributed or shared externally in any manner.
- The Facility must seek written approval from ACCF before sharing Accreditation-produced reports to any external party. The Facility must contact ACCF for review and approval if the Facility desires to share Accreditation- produced reports outside of the contracted Facility.

- The Facility agrees that ACCF will publicly recognize the Facility's Accreditation achievement in a manner and in a location determined by ACCF in its sole discretion.

#### Annual Fee

- ACCF shall provide the Facility with an invoice at the time the Agreement is shared detailing the prorated annual fee to cover the Facility's participation in the ACCF Quality Programs during the initial term as outlined in the Agreement. The annual fee may be further prorated or adjusted based upon the date of execution of the Agreement.
- For any renewal terms of the Agreement, ACCF shall provide the Facility with the annual invoice(s) by November 1 of the then current calendar year for the Facility's participation in the ACCF Quality Programs in the upcoming calendar year. The annual fees will be itemized in the annual invoice.
- The Facility shall submit payment for the annual fees within ninety (90) days of the date of the invoice but no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of the Renewal Term.

#### Additional Fees

- ACCF shall invoice the Facility for the travel expenses incurred for the Accreditation/Certification On-Site Review. Such fees shall not exceed twelve thousand five hundred US Dollars (USD\$12,500.00). ACCF shall invoice the Facility for reimbursement of such expenses within sixty (60) days after the completion of the On-Site Review and the Facility shall provide payment within ninety (90) days of the date of the invoice.
- The Facility may, at the election of ACCF, be subject to interest accruing at the rate of one and a half percent (1.5%) per month for any amounts that are past due. The Facility agrees that all fees and expenses invoiced shall be payable in US Dollars.
- In the event that a Virtual Site Review is deemed appropriate and/or needed there will be no additional fees incurred or invoiced to the Facility related to the Site Review.

#### Termination of Program

- If a Facility terminates the Agreement at any point, the Facility is required to stop using the Accreditation designation marks and must remove the Accreditation designation marks from all external and internal Facility materials, websites, and signage, as outlined in the Agreement.

#### Accreditation Requirements

The Facility must adhere to mandatory Accreditation requirements outlined in the Agreement and these Program Requirements.

- The Facility will be provided with the Minimum Required Data Set (“MRDS”) for the selected Accreditation designation(s). The MRDS will provide the measures in which the Facility needs to collect and report internally. The Facility will upload quarterly aggregated data reports directly into the Accreditation tool to support process improvement discussions and facilitate the review process with the assigned ARS. If the Facility is unable to upload aggregated data due to local data security and localization laws, the assigned ARS will review the aggregated data with the hospital virtually and during the Accreditation onsite review.
- If the Facility chooses to meet the data requirements for Accreditation through a third-party vendor, a separate contract may be required, to be determined by ACCF.
- The Facility understands Accreditation is granted for three (3) years, unless Accreditation is earlier terminated pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.
- The Facility understands that the “Anniversary Date” refers to the date that is the three (3) year anniversary of the date on which Accreditation designation is initially granted.
- The Facility must adhere to mandatory Accreditation requirements outlined in the Agreement and this Program Requirements document.
- The Accreditation expires on the Anniversary Date unless: appropriate application documentation for renewal of accreditation is received before the Anniversary Date.
- Any Facility that achieves Accreditation will automatically move forward for re-Accreditation. To preserve the Anniversary Date, it is strongly recommended that the Facility submits its application for re-Accreditation no later than six (6) months before its Anniversary Date. If the re-Accreditation process is completed before the Facility’s Anniversary Date, the re-Accreditation will be for a full three (3) year term from the current (defined as the time of re-Accreditation) Anniversary Date. If not, the re-Accreditation will begin from the Facility’s new anniversary date determined by the new Accreditation date.
- The ACCF reserves the right to modify Accreditation anniversary dates to create exceptions on a case-by-case basis.
- The Baseline Gap Analysis (“BGA”) phase is the Facility’s starting reference point at the beginning of the Accreditation process. The BGA timeline is the sixty (60)-day phase that begins on the day ACCF on which notifies the Key Contact, via email, that the Accreditation process has begun (and grants access to the Accreditation tool). The timeline for the BGA is designated as the time from initial access to submission of the Accreditation tool. Submission of the BGA is expected within sixty (60) days of receiving access to the tool.
- Submission of the Application is expected within twelve (12) months of receiving access to the online Accreditation tool. Early submission of the Application is encouraged.
- The annual fee must be paid in full by the date listed on the invoice.

#### For International Center of Excellence (ICOE) Program

The Facility must adhere to mandatory Accreditation requirements outlined in the Application, submit quarterly MRDS measure report uploads, and adhere to the terms of the Agreement, and these Program Requirements.

#### For Partner in Care Program

The Provider, defined as Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) or Heart Failure (“HF”) Outpatient Clinic, must adhere to mandatory Partner in Care requirements outlined in the Agreement and these Program Requirements.

- The Provider must demonstrate active engagement with the corresponding Accredited Facility.
- Documents submitted by the Provider into the Accreditation tool(s) are expected to support active and ongoing engagement with the Accredited Facility.
- The Provider understands the Partner in Care designation is only active during the Facility’s active Accreditation period.
- The Provider understands “Anniversary Date” refers to the date that is the three (3) year anniversary of the date on which the Partner in Care designation is initially granted.
- The Partner in Care designation expires on the Anniversary Date unless the Facility renews its Accreditation designation(s) prior to the Anniversary Date. If not, the Partner in Care designation will begin from the Facility’s new anniversary date determined by the new date of Accreditation of the Facility and Partner in Care designation of the Provider.

### **3.0 National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR®)**

- ACCF Accreditation Services allows certain Accredited / Certified facilities or those who have purchased the Accreditation service prior to February 28, 2026, to use the ACCF’s National Cardiovascular Data Registry (“NCDR®”) data to meet specific requirements. Therefore, the Facility, by participating in one or more Accreditation Programs, hereby consents and authorizes ACCF to use the appropriate NCDR data for the applicable Accreditation / Certification Program(s).
- NCDR® U.S. benchmark quarterly reports will be provided to the Facility once Accreditation is granted for the correlating Accreditation program.

#### **4.0 Facility Recognition Kit**

- ACCF Accreditation Services has developed recognition information to support the Facility in communicating its Accreditation /Certification / ICOE achievement. Information and a congratulations kit will be sent via email.
- The Facility may use the resources provided to promote the Facility’s quality improvement efforts to its patients and community. By signing the Agreement and indicating the Facility’s commitment to the ACCF Accreditation program, the Facility agrees to comply with the appropriate use of the recognition kit. The contents provided may include the following (subject to change at the discretion of ACCF):
  - A certificate
  - A desktop award
  - Examples of press releases, articles, social media messages
  - Digital seal(s) for use on the Facility webpage or other marketing materials.