

Introduction to Accreditation Standards For Christian Science Nursing Organizations

The Commission offers accreditation for its member organizations. The primary purpose of member organizations is to provide Christian Science nursing. The purpose of The Commission includes encouragement of member organizations to identify and implement policies and procedures for improving the Christian Science nursing they provide.

The Commission has identified the following standards for specific aspects of the operation of member organizations. These standards are based on and support the theology of Christian Science, which is found in the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and other writings of Mary Baker Eddy, especially the *Church Manual* bylaw, "Christian Science Nurse," (Article VIII, Section 31).

The standards are intended to uphold the following:

- Expectation of Christian Science healing
- Loving and appropriate Christian Science nursing care
- Accommodation of individual needs
- Respect for individual dignity

The actions indicated for compliance with these standards are intended to assist each member organization to meet the care needs of patients in a supportive and safe environment. An organization shall be deemed to be in compliance with a standard by meeting each of the actions listed for that standard. The organization may submit alternative evidence, including third-party inspections and/or licensing, to the review team and request consideration of that evidence as compliance with a standard(s).

A Christian Science nursing organization's policies and practices, together with careful oversight, guide and support the organization's staff in providing ethical, skilled, attentive and efficient services.

Accreditation by The Commission is the result of a peer review process. Well-qualified and experienced teams of reviewers conduct on-site visits to assess a member organization's adherence to the standards. An accreditation review team will evaluate an organization's compliance with each of the following standards and will make an accreditation recommendation that is supported by a written report of its findings.

The standards are the foundation of the Commission accreditation process which requires both internal and external evaluations of the extent to which the standards are being met. Organizations seeking initial accreditation or re-accreditation must conduct a self-assessment of their compliance with all of the standards at least every three years. Review Teams analyze the most recent self-assessment reports prior to their site visits.

Because these standards apply to three different types of organizations – Facilities, Visiting Christian Science Nurse Services (VCSNSs) and Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs – some actions to satisfy compliance may not be applicable to all. If that is the case, N/A (not applicable) would be chosen by the organization when completing the Self-Assessment. This choice would normally be made by stand-alone VCSNSs that are not part of a Facility, Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs, and, in the case of A2d, by those Facilities that do not provide Christian Science nursing care in a home setting. When N/A is chosen, the Review Team will confirm that the choice is appropriate.

An objective evaluation of the Reviewers' report is made by the Independent Accreditation Audit Committee (IAAC), none of whose members have any affiliation with the organization being accredited. The IAAC audits the information from the Review Team and makes a recommendation to The Commission Board on the appropriate accreditation status. The Commission Board makes the final accreditation decision.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

FACILITIES

A. RELIGIOUS

A1. Christian Science nursing care is consistent with the theology of Christian Science and with the bylaws of the *Manual of The Mother Church*, especially Article VIII, Section 31, “Christian Science Nurse.”

Actions which satisfy compliance

A1a. Organization policies and practices are in accord with the theology of Christian Science.

A1b. Board members are thoroughly oriented to the role of the Christian Science nurse.

A1c. The organization demonstrates support for the importance of *Journal* listing for Christian Science nurses in their staffing considerations.

A1d. Policies and procedures that impact the Christian Science nursing activity and/or Christian Science nurses training/education are reviewed and approved in consultation with Christian Science nurses, at least one whose card is in the current edition of *The Christian Science Journal*.

A1e. The Executive Director, or equivalent, Christian Science nurses, and Board members are members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass., active members of a *Journal*-listed society or branch Church of Christ, Scientist, or local members of The Mother Church, and have had primary class instruction. Christian Science nurses during their first year of training or who are preparing for primary class instruction, or who are in Sunday School, may be exempted from the primary class instruction requirement.

A1f. The organization designates, according to programs offered, an experienced Christian Science nurse whose card appears in the current edition of *The Christian Science Journal* to supervise all patient care, oversee the Christian Science nursing staff, and supervise all instruction of Christian Science nursing (Director of Christian Science Nursing, Director of Visiting Christian Science Nursing Services, Director of Christian Science Nurses Training Program (or comparable title)).

A1g. The organization employs Christian Science nurses who meet the standards of Article VIII, Section 31 of the *Church Manual*. All patient care is provided by Christian Science nurses.

A1h. Instruction in Christian Science nursing is based on and consistent with the theology of Christian Science and the requirements in the *Manual of The Mother Church*, Article VIII, Section 31, "Christian Science Nurse."

A1i. The organization is aware of current guidelines related to Christian Science nursing issued by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

A1j. (Actions for compliance are by type of Organization.)

VCSNSs select the following action for compliance:

The board has adopted a policy that only patients relying on Christian Science for healing can be accepted. As a general rule the patients will receive treatment from a Christian Science practitioner listed in the current edition of *The Christian Science Journal*.

Facilities select the following action for compliance:

The board has adopted a policy that all patients in the facility are relying exclusively on Christian Science for healing and have engaged a Christian Science practitioner listed in the current edition of *The Christian Science Journal* for regular treatment.

Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

A1k. Patients and their representatives are informed in writing that no medical care is given, including diagnosing, administering medication, drugs or therapy, and informed in writing of what is and is not included in Christian Science nursing care, such as stated in the most recent publication of The Mother Church regarding the "Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services".

- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

A1l. For both patient care and instruction in Christian Science nursing, Christian Science nursing records are non-condition oriented, unless, and only to the extent, required by law.

A2. The Organization's policies and practices are fully supportive of individual patients' prayer and study of Christian Science.

Actions which satisfy compliance

A2a. Patients have access to a variety of ways and times to read or hear the Bible Lesson, the Bible, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and other authorized literature appropriate for Christian Science study and practice.

- VCSNS (if not part of a Facility): N/A
- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Program: N/A

A2b. All patients have a place available for prayer and quiet study.

- VCSNS (if not part of a Facility): N/A
- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

A2c. Patients are free to decide how and when to study.

- VCSNS (if not part of a Facility): N/A
- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

A2d. In home settings, the organization shall have information to share with the patient for access to Christian Science literature.

- Facility (when the Facility does not offer Christian Science nursing in home settings): N/A
- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

A3. The organization demonstrates that Christian Science nursing is a healing ministry.

Actions which satisfy compliance:

A3a. A summary of recent patient healings.

A3b. A summary of healing outcomes from the staff's application of a "demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice" (Manual of The Mother Church, Article VIII, Sect. 31).

A3c. Examples in which the organization encouraged and supported the staff in demonstrating that Christian Science nursing is a healing ministry.

A4. In accordance with the *Manual of the Mother Church*, Article VIII, Section 31, "Christian Science Nurse," the organization consistently uses the full title of that

office and consistently describes the care given by a Christian Science nurse as “Christian Science nursing.”

Actions which satisfy compliance:

A4a. The organization follows a policy which requires that the three words “Christian Science nurse (or nursing)” be used as a unit. The organization uses the full, unabbreviated, and unbroken terms “Christian Science nurse” and “Christian Science nursing” in all of its formal and/or public communications.

A4b. The organization is aware of current guidelines related to Christian Science nursing communications issued by The First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

B. ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

B1. The organization is legally established as a not-for-profit entity.

Actions which satisfy compliance (document specific requirements by country)

B1a. The organization has obtained and maintains its not-for-profit status.

B1b. The organization has documentation that establishes its compliance with laws and regulations governing its not-for-profit status.

B1c. The organization files complete and accurate financial and organizational reports as required by law.

B2. The organization is aware of and complying with all applicable local, state, government and federal laws and regulations.

Actions which satisfy compliance

B2a. The organization has a process to maintain its compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

B2b. The organization maintains records that confirm it is in compliance with all relevant health, sanitation, and safety requirements, including fire and emergency procedures.

B2c. Board members are thoroughly oriented to their legal, ethical, and fiscal obligations.

B3. The organization abides by all applicable labor/employment laws and regulations.

Actions which satisfy compliance

B3a. The organization has a process to stay abreast of pertinent state, federal, and government labor/employment laws and regulations.

B3b. The organization complies with regulations regarding compensation, time off, workers insurance, grievance, background checks and other required provisions and benefits.

B3c. Current work authorization document(s) as required by law are on file for each employee.

B4. Employees and participants in Christian Science nurses training programs are thoroughly oriented to their roles and responsibilities within the organization.

Actions which satisfy compliance

B4a. The organization orients employees and participants in Christian Science nurses training programs to policies applicable to their position.

B4b. The primary duties and responsibilities of each position are in writing, e.g., job descriptions.

B4c. Training is provided as appropriate for all employees, including orientation to Christian Science nursing.

B4d. The organization orients employees and participants in Christian Science Nurses training programs to pertinent organization policies and to buildings, equipment and vehicles, as applicable.

B4e. There is a system in place to evaluate regularly the performance of employees. A record is kept of these evaluations, as required by law.

B5. The organization refines and improves the quality of its services.

Actions which satisfy compliance

B5a. The organization follows a process that encourages staff to identify ways and means to refine and improve the quality of service.

B5b. The organization conducts and documents regular in-service training with appropriate follow-up supervision and evaluation after instruction is given.

B5c. If specific training is required by government regulations, it is provided in a timely manner to new, temporary, and regular employees.

B6. The organization's fiscal policies and operations are transparent and supportive of financial stability.

Actions which satisfy compliance

B6a. Proper controls and procedures are in place to monitor and safeguard the organization's financial resources.

B6b. The board has adopted a conflict of interest policy.

B6c. The organization complies with accepted accounting and auditing practices.

B6d. The organization conducts and makes available, as required by law, an annual audit or financial review.

B6e. Patients and their representatives are informed of imminent increases in charges in a timely manner.

- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

B6f. The organization has a financial assistance policy to serve those relying on Christian Science for healing who are unable to pay for all or part of their care.

- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

B6g. If the organization offers financial assistance for Christian Science nurses training, it is given impartially based on individual program participant needs and circumstances and in accord with a written policy.

- VCSNS (if not part of a Facility): N/A

B6h. When benevolence is offered, it is given impartially based on individual patient needs and circumstances.

- Christian Science Nurses Training/Education Programs: N/A

C. PATIENT ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE

C1. The board has established written policies to guide patient admission.

Actions which satisfy compliance

C1a. The board has established and articulated its policy for serving the Christian Science nursing needs of the community it serves.

C1b. Board policies on admission adhere to laws pertaining to cases such as infectious diseases and other reportable/notifiable challenges, minors, pregnancy, childbirth and mental challenges.

C2. Organization managers (e.g., the Executive Director, Director of Christian Science Nursing) follow systematic processes for acceptance, admission and stay of patients.

Actions which satisfy compliance

C2a. The organization responds promptly to calls for Christian Science nursing care, including consultation between the Director of Christian Science Nursing and Executive Director, or their designated representatives.

C2b. Organization policies related to patients are written, readily available and familiar to those implementing them.

C2c. Upon admission, necessary information for patients is provided to patients and their representatives.

C2d. Patients and their representatives are informed in writing of current rates and charges.

C2e. Patients and their representatives are informed of the opportunity to apply for benevolence that may be available.

C2f. Patients and their representatives are given, at the time of admittance, written notice of their rights, including the grievance procedure.

C3. There are policies and procedures guiding discharge of patients.

Actions which satisfy compliance

C3a. Patients and, if needed, their representatives, are consulted when discharge is anticipated.

C3b. Written discharge plans are developed for departing patients when needed or appropriate, ensuring a safe and smooth transition to the new setting.

C3c. Follow up calls and visit(s) are made as necessary.

D. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

D1. The organization employs qualified Christian Science nurses to provide high quality care.

Actions which satisfy compliance

D1a. The organization ensures that a sufficient number of Christian Science nurses of appropriate skill and experience is available to assist all patients with their care needs and to ensure the safety of patients.

D1b. The organization provides instruction and other assistance for Christian Science nurses to achieve or maintain the required level of expertise.

D1c. Christian Science nurses are thoroughly trained in the organization's patient care policies and procedures.

D2. The organization has a process to designate Christian Science nurses with appropriate skills and experience to provide supervision or oversight to ensure that proper Christian Science nursing care is continuously provided to all patients.

Actions which satisfy compliance

D2a. The organization supervises staff and provides oversight of patient care, 24 hours a day, with Christian Science nurses whose cards are listed in *The Christian Science Journal*, or with Christian Science nurses, without cards in *The Christian Science Journal*, who have been specifically determined to have the appropriate skills and experience to ensure proper care for all patients.

D2b. Supervisory staff members are aware of their roles and responsibilities during emergencies.

E. PATIENT CARE

E1. The organization ensures that patients' care needs receive prompt and appropriate attention.

Actions which satisfy compliance

E1a. Individual patient care needs are regularly assessed, and each care plan is kept current.

E1b. Christian Science nurses have the demonstrated ability to provide proper care to the patients they are assigned.

E1c. All patients have effective means for summoning assistance.

E1d. The organization has a system in place to ensure that patients receive regular and appropriate care.

E1e. A system is in place to maintain appropriate and current documentation that accurately records the patient care that has been given.

E1f. Patient care plans are reviewed daily and updated as needed by Christian Science nurses whose cards appear in *The Christian Science Journal*.

E1g. Patient documentation is sufficient for legal requirements, third party review, and other purposes. These records are stored and maintained as required by law.

E1h. Effective communication is maintained among the Christian Science nursing department and other support staff.

E1i. The organization follows a process that encourages both the Christian Science nursing staff and patients to identify ways and means to refine and improve the quality of care.

E2. The organization's policies and procedures uphold and respect patients' rights.

Actions which satisfy compliance

E2a. Organization staff members are informed in writing of patients' rights.

E2b. Patients or their representatives participate, as appropriate, in planning their care and provide input regarding their meals and activities.

E2c. Patients have a place where they can visit with guests in private.

F. FOOD SERVICE, HOUSEKEEPING, MAINTENANCE, AND SAFETY

F1. The organization provides each patient with meals that are appropriate, well-prepared and attractively presented.

Actions which satisfy compliance

F1a. Menus are reviewed by a Christian Science nurse and offer variety and balance.

F1b. When food modification is needed, a Christian Science nurse provides oversight and ensures that it is appropriate for the patient.

F1c. Alternate foods are available for each meal in consideration of patient preferences and needs.

F1d. The organization maintains proper food storage, preparation, and handling procedures, and complies with applicable health laws and regulations.

F1e. Meals are offered in a timely manner. A variety of between-meal nourishment is provided as needed.

F1f. Meals transported to patient rooms are properly identified, covered and maintained at a proper temperature.

F1g. All kitchen and other food preparation areas are kept clean and in good repair.

F1h. Food storage areas are clean, well-ventilated, and free of pests and contaminants.

F2. The facility is clean, comfortable, and attractive.

Actions which satisfy compliance

F2a. Patient rooms and public areas are clean, tidy, well-lighted, a comfortable temperature, odor-free, and reasonably quiet.

F2b. Furniture and equipment are kept in good condition.

F2c. The organization provides clean and orderly areas for storing nursing equipment and supplies, and for bandaging preparation.

F3. The facility is safe and well-maintained.

Actions which satisfy compliance

F3a. The organization has a contingency plan for emergencies, including provision of meals and water for patients and staff.

F3b. A handbook is readily accessible which includes important fire, safety, evacuation, and emergency information.

F3c. The organization provides and documents safety training for employees.

F3d. The organization conspicuously posts plans and instructions for emergency evacuations.

F3e. The organization conducts and documents drills of emergency and fire procedures as required by law.

F3f. The organization ensures that necessary maintenance of the buildings, grounds, and equipment is performed for the safety and security of patients, visitors and staff.

Definitions:

Appropriate skill and experience (Facility): Appropriate means the Christian Science nurses can provide proper care to the patients.

Classroom (Education): The term classroom may be used for any appropriate setting where instructors and program participants gather for effective instruction.

Establish in C1 and C1a (Facility and VN): This means policies, whether initiated by or approved by the Board, are considered established by the Board.

Qualified (Facility): Having the experience and skill.

Policy: In each case when a policy is referred to as part of an action to comply with a standard, the policy must be in written form.

Explanations:

- 1. Core Standards for Facilities:** Sections A through F of these standards shall be considered the core standards for facilities.
- 2. Substantial Compliance:** Substantial compliance is evident when an activity or result is fulfilling most of what the standard requires; any areas of weakness or non-compliance are not jeopardizing the success of the activity.
- 3. Evidence of Compliance:** An organization shall be deemed to be in compliance with a standard by meeting each of the actions listed for that standard. The organization may submit alternative evidence, including third-party inspections and/or licensing, to the review team and request consideration of that evidence as compliance with a standard(s).