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COMMITTEE REPORT  
HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER: FINANCE

3/25/85

Date: April 2, 1985

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had HB 320

"An Act relating to hospital inspections and investigations by the Department of Health and Social Services."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass  do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for \_\_\_\_\_  same title
- and recommends \_\_\_\_\_  new title
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"  New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation  Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
CHAIRMAN

[Signature]

POSITION PAPER  
HOUSE BILL NO. 320

"An Act relating to hospital inspections and investigations by the Department of Health and Social Services."

I. Background:


The purpose of HB320 is two fold; a) to reduce the annual hospital licensing demands on limited departmental staff, and b) to reduce the level of interruption to hospital operations as a result of duplicative licensing review activities.

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) reviews each hospital in Alaska once every three years. In addition, the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services conducts a review of each hospital annually. The Department recognizes that JCAH review standards are equal to those of the state, and that substitution of the JCAH review where possible would permit better utilization of limited State staff resources.

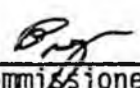
The administrative burden on the state licensing agency has expanded greatly in the last two years with no corresponding increase in State staff. Although the Department has streamlined its review procedures to accommodate this larger workload, the option to substitute the JCAH review would complement the other improvements already made. This would not create any undue risk to the public as significant differences have seldom been noted between the JCAH and State level review findings.

II. Departmental Position:

The Department supports HB320.

Recommend By:   
Rod Betit, Director  
Division of Medical Assistance

Date: 3/29/85

Approved By:   
John R. Pugh, Commissioner  
Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 7/1/85

**STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST**

Bill/Resolution No.: HB320  
 Title: An Act relating to hospitals inspections & investigations  
 Sponsor: Koponen  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Request: 3/28/85

**FISCAL DETAIL**

Agency Affected: DHSS  
 Program Category Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Assistance Administration

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
<b>OPERATING</b>						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>CAPITAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<b>REVENUE</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**POSITIONS:**

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared By: <sup>EW</sup> Rod Betit, Director  
 Division: Medical Assistance

*RC*

Phone: 465-3355  
 Date: 3/29/85

Approved by Commissioner: J. R. O'G  
 Agency: Health & Social Services

Date: 4-1-85

*JCC*

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate Finance Committee

JAN FAIKS  
CO-CHAIRMAN

Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

February 13, 1985

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman  
Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 45 - An act relating to hospital inspections and investigations by the Department of Health and Social Services.

#### I. Senate Bill 45

Alaska Statute 18.20.080(a) now requires the Department of Health and Social Services to make an inspection of hospital facilities on a yearly basis. By removing the word "annual" from this section, SB 45 will give the Department flexibility to inspect hospitals more often or less often than once a year.

#### II. Proposed Amendment to SB 45

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) is a private organization which conducts inspections of hospital facilities that are comparable to the inspections conducted by the Department. The JCAH inspection involves an in-depth examination of the hospital's physical plant, safety and sanitation, record keeping, medical staff, medical services, and its management and administration.

Each hospital pays for its JCAH survey, and if it is found to be satisfactory, the facility is accredited for a three year period. I am enclosing a document entitled "General Administrative Policies and Procedures" which gives further information about the JCAH inspection program.

Forty states now use the JCAH findings rather than incur public expense to inspect these facilities. The proposed amendment would allow the Department of Health and Social Services to accept a JCAH inspection in lieu of conducting a similar inspection itself. The end result will be a manpower savings to the State without a loss of protection to the public.

alaska  
state  
hospital  
association

file SB 45

319 Seward St., Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 586-1790  
REPRESENTING ACUTE, LONG TERM AND OUTPATIENT FACILITIES

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Edward Zeiss  
Cordova Community Hospital  
Cordova

Chairman-Elect  
Michael Herring  
South Peninsula Hospital  
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Immediate Past Chairman  
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General Hospital

Physician Member of  
the Board  
Morris Horning, M.D.  
Anchorage

President  
Dennis L. DeWitt  
Juneau

January 24, 1985

Senator Jan Faiks  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811

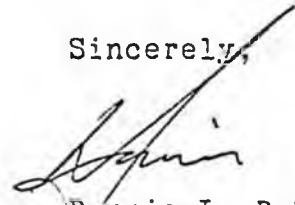
Dear Senator Faiks:

The Alaska State Hospital Association has reviewed Senate Bill No. 45 and wishes to indicate our support for its passage.

We respectfully request that it be amended to specifically permit the Department of Health and Social Services to accept the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals survey in lieu of licensure. This would relieve any ambiguity as to the intent of the legislation. I have attached a suggested amendment for your consideration.

We are anxious to be of whatever help is necessary to assist in the passage of SB 45.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis L. DeWitt  
President

DLD/agk

cc: Friday Mailing  
Senator Fahrenkamp ✓  
Commissioner Pugh

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# General Administrative Policies and Procedures

## Who May Apply for Survey

To be eligible for a JCAH accreditation survey, a hospital\* must meet the following requirements:

- Be located within the United States or one of its territories or possessions or, unless an exception is made by the president of JCAH (or in the absence of the president, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners), be owned or controlled by the United States or by an entity organized under the laws of the United States or one of its states, territories, or possessions.
- Have a valid, current license to operate.
- Maintain facilities, beds, and services that are available over a continuous 24-hour period, seven days a week.
- Be a hospital where the median length of stay is 30 days or less (exceptions may be made by the president of JCAH) or where the treatment provided is of such a nature that patients would not ordinarily be transferred to another facility for more intensive care. Not included are convalescent or domiciliary homes, homes for the aged, or other like establishments where only custodial care is provided.† Also excluded are student health centers and offices or clinics that primarily provide ambulatory care patient services and do not regularly admit inpatients.
- Have been in operation and actively caring for patients for at least six months before the survey so there is a record of performance that can be evaluated.
- Have a governing body, an organized medical staff,‡ and a nursing service.
- Have the primary function of diagnosis, treatment, and/or rehabilitation.

\*The chief executive officer of a hospital that provides only psychiatric/substance abuse services has the option of an accreditation survey using either the standards contained in this *Manual* or the standards contained in the *Consolidated Standards Manual for Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatric, Alcoholism, and Drug Abuse Facilities*. The same option is applicable to a psychiatric/substance abuse department/service of a general hospital. This option will be honored for a three-year period, beginning with the April 1, 1984, effective date of this *Manual*.

†JCAH conducts a special survey for rehabilitation hospitals and other specialty hospitals, such as chronic disease hospitals, burn centers, and orthopedic hospitals, in which the median length of stay is over or under 30 days. Such facilities are surveyed for compliance with selected standards from this *Manual* and the *Accreditation Manual for Long Term Care Facilities*.

‡See Glossary.

- Provide for the following:

Building and grounds safety	Pharmaceutical services
Dietetic services	Professional library services
Emergency services	Quality assurance program
Functional safety and sanitation	Radiology services
Infection control	Rehabilitation programs/services
Medical record services	Respiratory care services*
Nuclear medicine services*	Social work services
Pathology and medical laboratory services	Special care services*
- Have at least one of the following acute clinical services—medicine, obstetrics-gynecology,† pediatrics, or surgery;‡ child, adolescent, or adult psychiatric services; or alcoholism or drug abuse services.
- Must provide that only a member of the medical staff, either individually or in cooperation with a licensed practitioner with clinical privileges, has the authority to admit a patient to the hospital.
- Must provide that only a licensed practitioner with clinical privileges will be directly responsible for a patient's diagnosis and treatment within the area of his privileges, that each patient's general medical condition will be the responsibility of a physician member of the medical staff, and that other direct medical care to patients will be provided only by a member of the house staff‡ or by allied health personnel acting under the supervision of a licensed practitioner with clinical privileges.
- Provide registered nurse supervision at all times, as well as other nursing services necessary for continuous patient care.
- Complete and return an Application for Survey with the nonrefundable application-processing fee.
- Provide the information requested in the *Hospital Survey Profile*.
- Operate without restriction by reason of sex, race, creed, or national origin.

#### How To Apply for Survey

Hospitals that wish to be accredited by JCAH should begin by sending a request for an Application for Survey to the following address:

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals  
Scheduling Department—Application Requests  
875 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

JCAH sends the hospital one application for completion. The application should be returned to JCAH with the nonrefundable application-processing fee. The hospital should retain a copy for its records.

#### Survey Fees

Survey fees are related to the cost of maintaining JCAH operations and ordinarily are determined annually.

When a hospital is scheduled for survey, JCAH sends the hospital an invoice

\*Not required for hospitals that provide only psychiatric/substance abuse services.

†Must have anesthesia services as well.

‡See Glossary.

and asks the hospital to pay the fees in accordance with the terms specified in the invoice, except where prohibited by law.

Section 952, PL 96-499, the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980, requires that Medicare providers include, in all their contracts for services costing \$10,000 or more in any 12-month period, a clause allowing the secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the US comptroller general, or their representatives to examine the contract and the contractor's books and records. To satisfy this statutory requirement with respect to any such hospital paying JCAH \$10,000 or more in any 12-month period and to avoid the necessity for executing a special contract with each such hospital, JCAH herein stipulates that if its charges to any such hospital amount to \$10,000 or more in any 12-month period, the contract or any agreement upon which such charges are based and any of JCAH's books, documents, and records that may be necessary to verify the extent and nature of JCAH costs will be available for four years after the survey to the secretary of DHHS, the comptroller general, or any of their duly authorized representatives. The same conditions will apply to any subcontracts JCAH has with related organizations if the payments under such contracts amount to \$10,000 or more in any 12-month period. This stipulation applies to all contracts and JCAH books and records pertinent to charges paid to JCAH on December 5, 1980, or later.

#### Survey Personnel, Duration of Survey, and Schedules

Accreditation surveys are conducted by JCAH surveyors. The number of days required for a survey and the composition of the survey team are based on information in the hospital's Application for Survey. The hospital is notified of the date of its survey approximately four weeks in advance. To keep survey fees to a minimum, JCAH attempts to schedule surveys systematically and efficiently.

#### Multiple-Category Facilities

JCAH has standards for the following four categories of service: (1) acute care general hospitals, including hospital-sponsored ambulatory health care services; (2) psychiatric and substance abuse facilities and programs;\* (3) long term care facilities; and (4) ambulatory health care organizations, excluding hospital-sponsored ambulatory health care services. JCAH refers to a facility offering two or more of these categories of service as a "multiple-category facility."

The Application for Survey contains provisions for a multiple-category facility to indicate all health care services provided by its corporate body. For accreditation purposes, a corporate body is an organization that has a single governing body that is legally, organizationally, and functionally responsible for managing one or more health care facilities, programs, or services within a reasonable geographic area, usually considered to be 100 miles or less. Corporations with facilities located over large geographic areas can be excluded from this definition. JCAH realizes that due to their nature and circumstances, certain government-owned or corporate-owned facilities may have to be considered on an individual basis and be given special consideration.

JCAH tailors the survey process to the nature and needs of a multiple-category facility. A single survey is conducted by a survey team specifically

\*Facilities that provide services only to child, adolescent, or adult psychiatric patients, to alcoholism or drug abuse patients, or to any combination of the aforementioned age and disability groups are not considered multiple-category facilities. Such facilities are surveyed for compliance with this *Manual* or with the *Consolidated Standards: Manual for Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatric, Alcoholism, and Drug Abuse Facilities*.

chosen for its expertise in the standards that will be used to survey the facility, and the facility receives a single accreditation decision and a single survey report based on JCAH's evaluation of all health care services provided by the facility's corporate body. Policies that are specific to the tailored survey process are published periodically in *JCAH Perspectives*.

JCAH also has standards for community mental health service programs, which are published in *Principles for Accreditation of Community Mental Health Service Programs*, and standards for hospice service programs, which are published in the *Hospice Standards Manual* (available December 1983). JCAH does not require multiple-category facilities that include community mental health and hospice service programs to be surveyed under these standards. However, if a multiple-category facility wishes to seek special recognition of these programs by requesting a survey under the standards for the programs, JCAH will handle the survey as part of the tailored survey process just described.

#### Accreditation Survey Procedures

The purpose of a JCAH accreditation survey is to assess the extent of a hospital's compliance with the applicable standards in this *Manual*. A hospital's compliance with the standards is assessed through at least one of the following means:

- Statements from authorized and responsible hospital personnel;
- Documentation of compliance provided by the hospital;
- Answers to questions concerning the implementation of a standard, or examples of its implementation, that will enable a judgment of compliance to be made; and
- On-site observations by JCAH surveyors.

Because each standard has some degree of importance, a hospital must be prepared to provide evidence of its compliance with each standard that is applicable to its operations. To be accredited, a hospital must demonstrate that it is in substantial compliance with the standards, although it need not be in full compliance with each applicable standard.

In the event that JCAH surveyors find that some aspect of hospital operations adversely affects patient health and safety, their findings may be considered for accreditation purposes even if the standards do not specifically address those operations. In considering any such findings, JCAH may obtain expert consultation.

#### Public Information Interviews

Although JCAH does not ask a hospital to announce its forthcoming survey through the mass media, it does ask the hospital to provide an opportunity during a full on-site survey for the presentation of information by consumers and the public as well as personnel and staff of the facility undergoing survey. Anyone who has information about a hospital's compliance with the accreditation standards may request a public information interview.

JCAH requires a hospital to post, in a public place on its premises, the official JCAH announcement of the date of survey and of the opportunity for a public information interview. Ordinarily, the public notice must be posted four weeks before the survey date; the notice must indicate that requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and that JCAH must receive them at least two working days before a hospital's accreditation survey begins. The notice must remain posted until the first day of the survey. Furthermore, if

someone asks about the survey, JCAH expects the hospital to inform the person of the survey dates and the fact that a public information interview may be requested or that such an interview is already scheduled.

The hospital should promptly send any request for a public information interview that it receives to JCAH's Hospital Accreditation Program and retain a copy for its files. JCAH acknowledges each request and sends a copy of this acknowledgment to the facility. The hospital is responsible for notifying the interviewees of the exact date, time, and place of the public information interview.

JCAH surveyors are required to report on whether JCAH policies concerning public information interviews have been carried out properly. This includes reporting the manner in which the notice was posted in the hospital.

Public information interviews usually are conducted during the morning of the first survey day and ordinarily do not exceed two hours in length. The hospital is expected to provide reasonable accommodation either within the hospital or at a location that is conveniently accessible to the hospital. Surveyors conduct the interview session and receive the information. Representatives of the hospital are expected to attend.

The interview consists only of the orderly receipt of information offered, verbally or in writing, within the prescribed time limit. All information received is fully considered for pertinence and verification; the findings are reported to JCAH central office staff with the results and recommendations of the survey. Any further participation in the survey by an outside source of information must be authorized by the hospital.

#### Accreditation Decision and Appeal

At the completion of the on-site survey, the surveyors hold a summation conference with one or more representatives of at least the hospital's governing body, administration, medical staff, and nursing staff. The form of the conference is of the hospital's choosing. During the conference, the surveyors present survey findings for discussion and clarification, and representatives of the hospital are given full opportunity to comment on any adverse findings noted by the surveyors.

JCAH staff evaluates the results of the survey, the recommendations of the surveyors, and any other relevant information, such as the extent of the hospital's compliance with recommendations, evidence of recent improvements, or documentation of plans to correct deficiencies. Based on its evaluation, JCAH staff recommends to the Accreditation Committee of the Board of Commissioners that the hospital either be accredited or be denied accreditation. (See Appendix B for a full discussion of accreditation and appeal procedures.)

When JCAH staff tentatively determines that it will recommend nonaccreditation to the Accreditation Committee, a representative of JCAH contacts the hospital, informs the chief executive officer of staff's intent, and discusses the areas of noncompliance upon which the recommendation would be based. When necessary, arrangements may be made for further discussions between representatives of the hospital and JCAH.

JCAH also sends the chief executive officer of the hospital a list of the areas of less than substantial compliance. If the chief executive officer maintains that sufficient documentation can be submitted to demonstrate either that the hospital was in compliance with the standards in question or that the hospital has corrected the major deficiencies identified during the on-site survey, the hospital is given 15 days to submit the documentation. JCAH staff reviews the documentation and will take one of the following actions: (1) change its recommendation and submit a recommendation to grant accreditation, along with the survey

findings and the hospital's documentation, to the Accreditation Committee for a decision; (2) conduct a resurvey of all or part of the hospital; or (3) submit its recommendation to deny accreditation, along with the survey findings and the hospital's documentation, to the Accreditation Committee for decision.

The Accreditation Committee considers the recommendation of JCAH staff and will either grant accreditation to the hospital or initially decide to deny accreditation. The hospital is notified of the decision and is provided with recommendations for improvements. Copies of these recommendations are sent to the chairman of the hospital's governing body, the chief executive officer, and the president of the medical staff.

Any decision of the Accreditation Committee to accredit a hospital is final, and the hospital's accreditation is effective as of the first day after completion of the survey.

If the Accreditation Committee initially decides that accreditation should be denied, and if the facility was not an accredited hospital at any time during the two years before the survey, the committee may direct JCAH staff to inform the hospital that instead of either accepting a nonaccreditation decision or requesting an interview, it may elect to consider the survey a consultation and education visit that does not result in a nonaccreditation decision.

Any initial decision of the Accreditation Committee that accreditation should be denied entitles the hospital to appeal the nonaccreditation decision in accordance with the procedures described in Appendix B of this *Manual*. These procedures are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Except in rare and unusual circumstances where patient life or safety may be in jeopardy, the hospital is given an opportunity to come to JCAH for an interview with representatives of JCAH after the Accreditation Committee has made an initial decision to deny accreditation. The results of the interview are reported to the Accreditation Committee for its consideration. If the Accreditation Committee decides to deny accreditation, the hospital has the right to a hearing before an Appeals Hearing Panel composed of impartial individuals selected by the president of JCAH. If the hospital fails to properly request an interview or a hearing, as described in Appendix B, any decision of the Accreditation Committee to deny accreditation becomes final.

If a hearing is held, the Appeals Hearing Panel considers the survey findings and all other available materials, including any oral and written presentations made by the hospital. The panel then makes a recommendation concerning accreditation to the Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners or a committee of the Board of Commissioners (excluding any members who may have participated in any earlier consideration by the Accreditation Committee) considers the recommendation of the Appeals Hearing Panel and decides either to grant or deny accreditation to the hospital. Any decision of the Board of Commissioners or its committee to accredit the hospital is final, and the hospital's accreditation is effective as of the first day after completion of the survey; any decision of the Board of Commissioners or its committee to deny accreditation is also final and is effective as of the date of the decision.

#### Duration of Accreditation

If it is found to be in substantial compliance with JCAH standards, a hospital is awarded accreditation for three years. Approximately 18 months from the date of its survey, each accredited hospital is asked to conduct an interim self-survey, using procedures and submitting reports as required by JCAH. At the request of an accredited hospital, JCAH will conduct a full accreditation survey more frequently than once every three years.

In the process of deciding to accredit a hospital, the Accreditation Committee determines whether survey findings warrant any contingencies. When a hospital is accredited subject to one or more contingencies, JCAH will monitor the hospital's efforts to improve an area of concern identified during an accreditation survey. The type of monitoring required and the time allotted for demonstrating improvement depends on the nature of the concern—particularly its effect on patient care—and the time required to satisfactorily address the concern. Hospitals that receive contingencies ordinarily are asked either to submit a written progress report or to undergo a focused on-site survey. During a focused survey, JCAH surveyors ordinarily address only those concerns identified in contingencies. Some contingencies, however, may require surveyors to address issues related to the areas of concern. The size of the survey team and the duration of the focused survey depend on the number and extent of concerns addressed in contingencies. Usually, focused surveys are not as extensive as full accreditation surveys.

Accreditation is not automatically renewable. A hospital must undergo another full accreditation survey and demonstrate substantial compliance with JCAH standards to renew accreditation. Several months before a hospital's accreditation is due to expire, JCAH will send the hospital an Application for Survey and, upon receipt of the completed application, JCAH will schedule the survey. JCAH ordinarily schedules the survey as near as possible to the hospital's survey anniversary date. However, to allow latitude in adjusting to a hospital's needs, surveys may be scheduled within a 90-day period surrounding the hospital's anniversary date. With a hospital's consent, JCAH may schedule the survey up to 90 days before accreditation is due to expire.

Following a survey, a hospital's previous accreditation status continues until a decision is made to accredit the hospital or a final decision is made to deny accreditation to the hospital.

An accredited hospital may be surveyed at any time at the discretion of JCAH. Ordinarily, no fee is charged for a survey initiated at JCAH's discretion.

A hospital that is not granted accreditation or that has its accreditation withdrawn may apply for a resurvey, but the resurvey will not be conducted until six months after the final nonaccreditation decision. This six-month waiting period may be waived by the president of JCAH if the hospital demonstrates sufficient progress in addressing recommendations to justify such a waiver.

Accreditation is not automatically transferable. If an accredited hospital changes ownership or control or undergoes a major change in its capacity or in the categories of services offered, it must notify JCAH not more than 30 days after such change. Accreditation is continued until JCAH can determine whether a resurvey is necessary. If JCAH decides to resurvey the hospital, the hospital will be asked to submit an Application for Survey and the required fee within 20 days of notification by JCAH. Failure to comply with these provisions results in loss of accreditation.

An accredited hospital also must notify JCAH not more than 30 days after a merger or consolidation or a major change in facilities or organization; for example, JCAH must be notified when a hospital relocates or undergoes a major renovation. As in the case of a change of ownership or control, JCAH may decide that the hospital has to be resurveyed.

#### Confidentiality

In submitting its Application for Survey, the hospital must provide, or authorize JCAH to obtain, official records and reports of private organizations and of public or publicly recognized licensing, examining, reviewing, or planning bodies.

Except as required by law, all information obtained by JCAH in the accreditation survey process, including the public information interview, and the results and recommendations of the survey are treated as confidential matters between JCAH and the surveyed hospital. The results and recommendations of the survey will be provided only to the surveyed hospital, which may release them at its discretion.

However, when a serious condition jeopardizing public safety or the safety of a patient is found in a hospital, and when this condition has been pointed out to the chief executive officer, the proper local or state authority will be notified of the problem in writing.

Except as required by law and as noted in the preceding paragraph, JCAH does not release any information obtained through the survey process that identifies a particular hospital without the written authorization of the hospital. This restriction does not prevent JCAH from publishing aggregate data obtained from accreditation surveys.

JCAH does provide the following information upon request from anyone:

- Whether JCAH has received an Application for Survey from a particular hospital;
- A list of hospitals tentatively scheduled for survey, without indication of specific survey dates;
- Upcoming survey dates for a particular hospital after the hospital has been notified of the survey dates; and
- Whether a hospital is or is not accredited.

#### **Public Recognition**

JCAH provides each accredited hospital with a certificate of accreditation. A hospital is not charged for the initial certificate or any new certificate issued to reflect a change in the hospital's name. Additional certificates can be obtained from JCAH at cost.

The certificate and all copies remain the property of JCAH and must be returned to JCAH if the hospital is issued a new certificate reflecting a change in name or if its accreditation expires or is withdrawn or denied for any cause.