

# The Importance of Accreditation in Home Health Care in KSA

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**Abstract:** Home Health Care (HCC) is a component of continuum comprehensive health care whereby health services are provided to individuals and families in their places of residence for the purpose of promoting, maintaining or restoring health, or maximizing the level of independence while minimizing the effects of disability and illness. The International Institute of Medical Education defines accreditation as a self-regulatory process by which governmental, non-governmental, voluntary associations or other statutory bodies grant formal recognition to institutions programs that meet stated criteria of institution quality. The importance of Accreditation in Home Health Care includes, Ensure the quality of the HHC program, Ensure that cross-disciplinary and subject-specific quality standards are maintained, Encourage institutional improvements, Make institutional structures and degrees internationally compatible, Increase public and stakeholder trust in the HHC program, Foster national and international recognition of the HHC program, Promote the diversity and quality of the HHC program, Improve the quality output and efficiency of the HHC program, Identify both strengths & weaknesses and Encourage innovation & re-orientation toward changing health needs. The aim of accreditation is to improve the health status of communities and the quality of services in the HHC department. Accreditation of the HHC department is very beneficial for the department, staff, and communities. It is one way to improve the outcomes of the HHC department. It aims to adjust the HHC department programs to the ever-changing conditions in the health care delivery systems and to produce professionals who can serve societies in accordance with their health needs and expectations and the accreditation process's general aims are to certify that the HHC department program meets prescribed standards and to promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement.

**Keywords:** Home Health Care, Accreditation

## 1. Introduction

Home Health Care (HCC) is a component of continuum comprehensive health care whereby health services are provided to individuals and families in their places of residence for the purpose of promoting, maintaining or restoring health, or maximizing the level of independence, while minimizing the effects of disability and illness (Balinsky, 2017).

HHC services are provided by physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, social workers, and dieticians; as well as drug and equipment supply. It provides nursing care, social service, physiotherapy, respiratory therapy, dietary therapy, psychotherapy, medications and equipment supply according to patient's needs. (Balinsky, 2017).

The goals of home health care services are to help individuals to improve function and live with greater independence; to promote the client's optimal level of well-being; and to assist the patient to remain at home, avoiding hospitalization or admission to long-term care institutions.. (Alsagheir, 2017).

The International Institute of Medical Education defines accreditation as a self-regulatory process by which governmental, non-governmental, voluntary associations or other statutory bodies grant formal recognition to institutions programs that meet stated criteria of institutions quality. (WHO-WFME, 2004).

### Home Health Care Services:

Home health care helps people remain safely at home and live as independently as possible at home during recovery from a surgery, injury or illness, managing a serious or

chronic disease or dealing with multiple diagnoses. (Maaik E., 2015).

### Types of Home Health Care Services:

The range of home health care services that a patient can receive at home is limitless. Depending on the individual patient's situation, care can range from nursing care to specialized medical services, such as laboratory workups. The doctor and nurse will determine care plan and services a patient may need at home. At-home care services include:

- Doctor care: A doctor may visit a patient at home to diagnose and treat illness. He or she may also periodically review home health care needs.
- Nursing care: The most common form of home health care is some type of nursing care depending on the person's needs. In consultation with the doctor, a registered nurse will set up a plan of care. Nursing care may include wound dressing, ostomy care, intravenous therapy, administering medication, monitoring general health of patient, pain control, and other health support.
- Physical and occupational therapy: Some patients may need help relearning how to perform daily duties after an illness or injury. A physical therapist can put together a plan of care to help a patient regain or strengthen the use of muscles and joints.
- Medical social services: Medical social workers provide various services to the patient, including counseling and locating community resources to help the patient to recover.
- Nutritional Support: Dietitians can come to a patient's home to provide dietary assessments and guidance to support the treatment plan.
- Laboratory: Certain laboratory tests, such as blood and urine tests, can be performed in the comfort of the patient's home.
- Pharmaceutical Services: Medicine and medical equipment can be delivered at home. If the patient needs

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some, training can be provided on how to take medicines or use the equipment, including intravenous therapy. (Maaik E., 2015).

The importance and role of Home Health Care in the Health Care system in KSA:

As a result of many causes, home health care is needed in KSA health care system due to:

- Demographical changes.  
The more elderly population in Saudi Arabia, the growing elderly population, the aged over 65 projected to increase the elderly population will increase from 6% in 2005 to 12% in 2030 according to WHO.
- More chronic diseases.
- The shift of diseases from acute infectious to chronic is very apparent. Specifically, cardiovascular deaths will increase from 36.6% to 43.7% by 2030.  
Earlier discharge of hospitalized patients, reducing the length of hospital stays & Need to free occupied beds.
- Medical advances allow better management of chronic and incurable diseases.
- 30% of the disabled need home care.
- Growing demand for a higher quality of life.
- The desire of patients and relatives to receive care at home avoiding prolonged expensive hospital care particularly at the end of the patient's life is considered an important reason for the growth in home health care.
- It keeps families together while helping them adjust to a new lifestyle and maintain a sense of dignity for the patient. (Alsagheir, 2017).

#### Types of Accreditation Standards

The accreditation is defined as the process by which a designated authority reviews and evaluates an institution using a set of clearly defined standards and procedures. Accreditation standard is a mandated set of rules and criteria used as quality improvement tools to make judgments and decisions about the performance of the program in self-evaluation, peer review, and accreditation. (Van Zanten, M., Boulet, J. R., & Greaves, I, 2012).

Accreditation Standards can be classified as:

Based on whether the accrediting body is from the same country or a foreign country:

- 1) National Accreditation Standards: like the Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI).
- 2) International Accreditation Standards: like the joint Commission International (JCI).

Or

#### Classification based on the type of data collected:

- 1) Qualitative Accreditation Standards: focus on the structures, resources, and processes of the program.
- 2) Quantitative Accreditation Standards: focus on institutional outcomes (Abdalla, M E, 2012).

#### Accreditation and Globalization in HHC:

Globalization is defined as the flow of technology, economy, knowledge, people, values, ideas across the borders. As globalization is reassessed for its social impact, societies

will seek to justify their investments with more solid evidence of their impact on the public good.

The HHC program should be prepared to be judged accordingly. There is an urgent need to foster the adaptation of accreditation standards and norms that reflect social accountability.

Only then can HHC institutions be measured and rewarded for their real capacity to meet the pressing health care needs of society. (Schwartz & Westerheijden, 2004).

#### The Need and Importance of Accreditation in Home Health Care:

Accreditation is needed at both national and international levels. At the national level, accreditation is needed to adjust HHC program to the ever-changing conditions in the health care delivery systems and to produce professionals who can serve societies in accordance with their health needs and expectations. At the international level, accreditation is also needed to meet the expansion of globalization. (Davis DJ, Ringsted C 2006).

Importance of Accreditation in Home Health Care:

- 1) Ensure the quality of the HHC program.
- 2) Ensure that cross-disciplinary and subject-specific quality standards are maintained.
- 3) Encourage institutional improvements.
- 4) Make institutional structures and degrees internationally compatible.
- 5) Increase public and stakeholder trust in the HHC program.
- 6) Foster national and international recognition of the HHC program.
- 7) Promote the diversity and quality of the HHC program.
- 8) Improve the quality output and efficiency of the HHC program.
- 9) Identify both strengths & weaknesses.
- 10) Encourage innovation & re-orientation toward changing health needs.
- 11) Credits required to be attained by HHC staff each year.
- 12) Desired qualifications of HHC staff.
- 13) Efforts to have sufficient funding to implement services effectively.
- 14) Content of the program and approval process.
- 15) Need for explicit systems to assure the quality of services.
- 16) State recognition of qualification and certification of professionals.
- 17) Accountability of Institutions to stakeholders.
- 18) Encouraging self-improvement initiatives by Institutions.
- 19) Helps determine if an institution meets standards of quality.
- 20) Involves all staff in institutional evaluation and planning.
- 21) Doing research on priority health problems.
- 22) Prepare the staff for the needs and expectations of society.
- 23) Cope with the explosion in medical scientific knowledge and technology.
- 24) Inculcate staff ability for lifelong learning.
- 25) Ensure training in the new information technologies.

- 26) Adjust HHC services to changing conditions in the health care delivery system. (Abdalla ME, 2012, WHO-WFME, 2004 and Davis DJ, Ringsted C 2006).

Benefits of accreditation in HHC program:

- 1) Accreditation is the basis for quality assurance and serves to reassure the public. It helps the HHC department determine if they meet the minimum standards of quality, and to engage in continuous quality improvement processes to effectively achieve their mission and as well enable the HHC department to identify the weaknesses and strengths of their programs.
- 2) Accreditation is a risk-reduction strategy; it is more like a biopsy, which provides a diagnosis of the condition of the institution.
- 3) Accreditation improves the quality of education and health care.
- 4) Accreditation ensures competences in preparation for staff in HHC.
- 5) Accreditation establishes a foundation for lifelong learning.
- 6) Enable the HHC department to establish standards that are relevant to the local healthcare conditions, and assist them to ensure that their programs respond to the evolving health needs and scientific developments.
- 7) Helps MOH regulatory authorities to assess the quality of an HHC program. (Abdalla ME, 2012, WHO-WFME, 2004 and Davis DJ, Ringsted C 2006).

The process of accreditation:

The accreditation process is composed of 4 main steps:

- 1) Self-study report and submission to the accrediting body.
- 2) Formal survey visit by representatives of the accrediting body.
- 3) Recommendation of the surveying visitors.
- 4) Accreditation decision by the highest governance of the accrediting body. (Abdalla ME, 2012)

Elaboration of the Steps of the Accreditation Process:

- 1) **First contact:** A detailed request for information covering all aspects of the accreditation (the Accreditation committee guide for data collection) is sent to the HHC department One year before the visit of the accreditation team.
- 2) **Self evaluation:** The HHC department undertakes an internal evaluation of itself guided by the accreditation committee request.
- 3) **Study of information:** The accreditation team studies the information obtained from the HHC department.
- 4) **Accreditation Team:** Formed of 3-5 members including quality specialist, HHC Specialist.
- 5) **The accreditation visit:** The accreditation team makes a planned observational visit to the HHC department. The team meets with the Head department, medical supervisor, head nurse, quality coordinator, file coordinator, data coordinator and staff, and visits all the department sites. The team discusses all aspects of accreditation. The atmosphere of discussion is formal, supportive, and collegiate. The team presents its comments and suggestions to the all staff.
- 6) **Accreditation report:** The team discusses and analyses all the information obtained and prepare a report. The

report is sent to the HHC department Then the HHC department studies the report and sets a plan for the development of the department based on the comments and suggestions included in the report.

- 7) **Second Accreditation visit:** The accreditation team visits the HHC department for the second time to make sure that all deficiencies are rectified.
- 8) **Final report:** The team prepares the final report and submits it to the accreditation committee which decides on the HHC department status; accredited, accredited with comments, rejected. (Abdalla ME, 2012).

The use of accreditation results in HHC program:

The results of the Accreditation process are used to determine whether the institution will be accredited, and provides an accreditation report that identifies strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. These results are used to create and implement action plans, continuing the cycle of ongoing quality improvement. (Al Mohaimeed, 2012).

## 2. Conclusion

The aim of accreditation is to improve the health status of communities and the quality of services in the HHC department. Accreditation of the HHC department is very beneficial for the department, staff, and communities. It is one way to improve the outcomes of the HHC department. It aims to adjust the HHC department programs to the ever-changing conditions in the health care delivery systems and to produce professionals who can serve societies in accordance with their health needs and expectations. (Abdalla ME, 2012).

The accreditation process's general aims are to certify that the HHC department program meets prescribed standards and to promote institutional self-evaluation and improvement. (Harvard Medical School, 2017).

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## Author Profile



**Ibrahim Kamilluttfi** received the MBBS from University of Shandi in Sudan, Passed examination of part one clinical immunology at Sudan Medical Specialization Board, M.Sc. in Health Professions Education from University of Gezira in Sudan, Fellowship in Social Accountability Health Professions Education, Essential Certificate in Geriatric Medicine from Arab Institute for Continuing Professional Development (AICPD) in Egypt and HEAL Certificate in wound management from the European Wound Management Association (EWMA). Currently, Studying to obtain a Ph.D. degree at Gezira University in Sudan and a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology And Clinical Trials Management from Suez Canal University in Egypt. Now, he working as Medical Supervisor of Home Health Care unit at King Salman Hospital in Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Trainer and supervisor of Home Health Care staff in Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.