



Dear colleague,

The Joint Commission has made the decision to end its cooperative agreement with the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA), effective Dec. 31, 2022. COLA will no longer be accepted by The Joint Commission as an approved laboratory accreditor within a Joint Commission accredited facility, beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

If your healthcare organization currently utilizes COLA as its laboratory accreditor (for one or more CLIA certificates within your organization), and your organization is accredited under any Joint Commission accreditation program, transition of your laboratory accreditor will be required.

We understand that this is an impactful change and are extending a two-year transition period to allow organizations ample time to make this change.

**Organizations will have until Dec. 31, 2024, to transition their laboratory accreditation to The Joint Commission or another approved cooperative partner. Organizations must be fully accredited by an accepted laboratory accreditor by this date to maintain compliance with Joint Commission policy.**

During the two-year transition period, organizations are required to maintain their Joint Commission accreditation status and must be accredited by an approved laboratory accreditor before the expiration of their COLA accreditation to ensure no lapse in accreditation.

Please note, for organizations that do not currently use COLA as their laboratory accreditor, no action is required.

While this is an unanticipated change for many organizations, our goal is to work closely with you and provide support throughout the transition process.

For more information, please contact your Joint Commission account executive or [qualitylabs@jointcommission.org](mailto:qualitylabs@jointcommission.org).

Sincerely,

**Heather L. Hurley**

Executive Director

Laboratory Accreditation & Health Systems Strategic Accounts

The Joint Commission

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