

Core Standards v4.0

Q&A

What is Core?

The Core module is a set of standards that establishes the foundational quality and compliance requirements for URAC's accreditation programs. Organizations can apply under this module for Core accreditation, and the Core module is also included within most of URAC's programs.

What is the difference between Core version 3.0 and version 4.0?

Core version 4.0 advances concepts already established in version 3.0, such as risk management. It addresses the newest concepts to keep pace with and anticipate changes in the healthcare industry, such as leadership, healthcare ethics, and business ethics. Furthermore, Core v. 4.0 modifies standard language as needed, clarifying intent and updating the text with current terminology. URAC provides crosswalks that exhibit these enhancements to the standards.

In addition, the standards format has migrated to one that concentrates related sets of standards into focus areas. Each standard is supported by its own unique elements of performance. Furthermore, URAC has streamlined the program guide information to include the following sections:

- Interpretive Information
- Demonstration of Compliance: Desktop Review
- Demonstration of Compliance: Validation Review

If my company is already URAC-accredited, how does the new version of Core v4.0 affect my company?

When applying for reaccreditation, you must apply under the most current version of a program existing at the time you sign an Accreditation Application Agreement ("AAA"). See the [rollout schedule](#) to find out when Core will launch for your program. All companies should stay in touch with their Account Manager – an organization may want to sign its AAA a little sooner if it wishes to apply under the earlier version of Core (i.e., version 3.0).

When do we have to demonstrate compliance with Core v4.0 standards?

Like all other programs, implementation of compliance with Core v4.0 must occur no later than submission of the application documentation for desktop review.

How can I get a copy of the Core v4.0 rollout schedule?

The rollout schedule is available in PDF format to download [here](#). You may also contact your Account Manager for a copy, or reach out to URAC Product Development at productdevelopment@urac.org.

When will training on the Core v4.0 standards begin?

The first Core v4.0 webinar will be held October 10, 2017, and available on-demand shortly after the presentation. The first live Core v4.0 workshop will be held in the first quarter of 2018. Upcoming webinars and workshops are listed on the URAC website under "Education and Events." Please check the URAC website under "Education and Events" to for more information.

Can I get a copy of the Core v4.0 standards?

Yes, through your Account Manager.

Will there be a crosswalk between Core v3.0 and v4.0?

Yes, there will be a simple and complex crosswalk located at the back of the program publications. The simple crosswalk will cross-reference related standards by standard name, whereas the complex crosswalk will show the specific changes made to the standard language.

What about the accreditation programs that do not include Core?

Programs that do not include Core are not affected. Examples of programs that do not include the Core module are: Health Call Center, Health Content Provider, and Patient-Centered Medical Home.

Will this rollout affect the measures for accreditation programs that include measures?

No, it will not; updates to existing measures are on a schedule that is independent of the Core v4.0 rollout.

Will the version numbers change because of the Core v4.0 rollout?

Yes; URAC considers a revision major if one or more modules underwent a major revision. In that case, you will see the version numbers advance to the next whole number. For example, Health Plan v7.3 will advance to v8.0 because of incorporating Core v4.0.

What if I do not see my program listed on the schedule?

Contact your Account Manager.

What if I have additional questions about the Core v4.0 rollout?

Contact your Account Manager, or reach out to URAC Product Development at productdevelopment@urac.org.