

Check a Treatment Program's Claims

Before choosing a program, check who provides the care, which services you would receive, and who can verify the answers. Use the same questions for each option. A reassuring logo is a starting point for a check, not the whole check.

Keep completed notes private. Use short notes in each box; continue on another copy or separate paper when needed. Save the completed PDF on your device and reopen it to check your notes before closing.

Three Different Checks [2] [1]

Check	What it tells you	How to follow up
Program license	Whether the relevant state authority permits the program to provide the licensed services. Requirements vary by state.	Ask for the legal name, site address, license number and issuing agency. Check that exact site with the agency.
Accreditation	An outside organization has reviewed the program against its standards. It is separate from a state license.	If accreditation is claimed, look up the program in that organization's directory and check the service and location.
Clinician credentials	The qualifications of the person who will assess or treat you, rather than just the company.	Ask who will provide care and which professional board or credentialing body can confirm the credential.

Official Accreditation Lookups

[Joint Commission: US accredited organizations](https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/about-us/recognizing-excellence/find-accredited-organizations)

<https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/about-us/recognizing-excellence/find-accredited-organizations>

[CARF: find a provider](https://carf.org/find-provider/)

<https://carf.org/find-provider/>

Search by the legal name and the street address, not only the brand name. If you cannot find a match, ask the program and the accreditor to clarify it. A missing search result is an unanswered question; it does not prove that a program is unlicensed or unsafe. Accreditation also does not establish that the program is the right fit for you. Some smaller alcohol-treatment programs provide quality care without accreditation. [2]

Turn a Claim Into a Specific Answer [1] [2]

Claim you hear	Question to ask
"Personalized care"	Who assesses me, what does the assessment include, and how do we choose and adjust my plan together?
"Medical care available"	Who provides it, when are they available, and what happens after hours? Which medical needs require another provider?
"Evidence-based treatment"	Which treatments do you offer for my concern? How do you decide what fits, and how do you assess progress?
"We accept your insurance"	Which facility, clinicians and services will be billed? I will confirm each with my plan. Can I have an itemized estimate?
"Medication support"	Can you provide or coordinate the medication care I need? Who prescribes it, and is that service billed separately?

Pause When Answers Stay Vague

Ask another provider or a trusted clinician for help comparing the options if a program will not explain its assessment, credentials, services or costs. NIAAA warns against alcohol-treatment approaches that shame or punish people. It also cautions against programs that reject all medication for alcohol use disorder. Ask about the treatment relevant to your own situation. [2]

Worked Example: An Accreditation Badge

Fictional example: a program's website displays a badge. The directory lists the company, but you cannot match the address you would attend. Write "company listed; this location unconfirmed." Ask the accreditor which locations and services the listing covers before calling the check complete.

Keep the Check Verifiable

Program and exact location

Legal name, website, street address and phone number.

Claim, evidence and date checked

License or accreditation number; official agency or directory; what matched and what did not.

Still unconfirmed and next contact

Write the question, who can answer it and how you will follow up.

Continue Comparing Treatment Options

Compare treatment programs

<https://www.addictionhelp.com/treatment-centers/>

Get help finding treatment

<https://www.addictionhelp.com/find-treatment-help/>

Sources

[1] SAMHSA: Finding Quality Treatment

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-support/learn-about-treatment/finding-quality-treatment>

[2] NIAAA: 10 Questions for Alcohol Treatment Programs

<https://alcoholtreatment.niaaa.nih.gov/how-to-find-alcohol-treatment/10-questions-for-alcohol-treatment-programs>

[3] Joint Commission: Find Accredited Organizations

<https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/about-us/recognizing-excellence/find-accredited-organizations>

[4] CARF: Find a Provider

<https://carf.org/find-provider/>