



2020 Excellence in Treatment Award Rules

The 2020 Excellence in Treatment awards are designed to recognize leading addiction treatment programs who are delivering the most-effective treatment as measured by post-treatment outcomes surveys.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for award consideration, treatment programs must be using appropriate research methodology to determine the percentage of their patients who are reachable and have met their self-defined drug and alcohol treatment goals for at least the last 30 days at one year post-treatment.

Specific requirements:

1. Patients must be systematically asked a series of questions via an online survey, a printed questionnaire, or a phone interview following a standardized script.
2. Research must be conducted by either an independent research company or by members of an internal research group with no responsibilities for patient care so that patients know that they can admit to relapsing without the information getting back to their former clinicians.
3. Patients who remained in treatment for more than a minimum period of time (for example, for more than 6 days) must be eligible for post-treatment follow-up. No more than 25% of the patients who enter treatment should be allowed to be deemed ineligible for the post-treatment outcomes research due to either leaving treatment in less than this minimum amount of time or because they refused or weren't asked to enroll in the research.
4. Each program seeking a success rating must choose whether they wish to define their patients' treatment success by complete abstinence goals or other patient-defined drug and alcohol usage goals:
 - a. Abstinence Goals: Programs will be rated according to the percentage of patients who are reachable and claim to have not used any alcohol or non-prescribed drugs during the last 30 days.
 - b. Patient-Defined Goals: Programs will be rated according to the percentage of patients who are reachable and claim to have achieved their self-selected alcohol and drug usage goals during the last 30 days. For example, a patient who was previously injecting heroin could define his treatment goal to be the non-use of any non-prescribed opioids or stimulants but allow the use of alcohol and marijuana.

5. Each program may choose to “start the outcomes research clock” at either discharge or the start of treatment:
 - a. By Discharge Date: Patients (typically those in short-term treatment) should be contacted for outcomes research six months and twelve months after they discharged from treatment.
 - b. By Date Entered Treatment: Patients (typically those in long-term treatment) should be contacted for outcomes research six months and twelve months after the date they entered treatment.
6. One year post-treatment data must be submitted for patients who met the minimum selection criteria and were discharged from treatment between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 for programs choosing to measure outcomes by discharge date, or for patients who entered treatment between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 for programs choosing to start the outcomes research clock at the start of treatment.
7. Since it takes treatment programs two years to collect one year post-treatment data on a full year’s worth of patients, treatment programs applying for the award for the first time will be allowed to submit six month post-treatment results for patients discharged between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 (for programs selecting #5a above) or for patients entering treatment between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 (for programs selecting #5b above).
8. Treatment programs discharging less than 100 patients per year must submit data on all patients meeting their minimum selection criteria. Larger treatment centers must submit data on at least 100 patients who were selected from among those eligible for post-treatment follow-up via a random-selection process. Random selection must be done by computer algorithm or other mathematical process; programs may not arbitrarily determine which patients to follow up with. Starting in 2021, programs discharging less than 275 patients per year must submit data on all patients meeting their minimum selection criteria.
9. Responses must be collected directly from the patient no more than four weeks before and six weeks after the 12 month (or 6 month) anniversary of the patient’s discharge.
10. Treatment centers must submit data on a minimum of 25 patients they have attempted to contact post-treatment, and these patients must have met the criteria to be included in the outcomes research over at least a three-month period.
11. Programs specializing in the treatment of professionals who lose their ability to perform their job if they do not remain abstinent (e.g., doctors, pilots, nurses, etc.) must apply for the Professionals award, not for the abstinence or harm reduction categories of awards.
12. Treatment programs must be currently open, in good legal standing, and be licensed by their state to treat substance use disorder in order to apply. Additionally, programs must be currently accredited by either the Joint Commission or CARF.
13. Applicants must complete all sections of the Excellence in Treatment application and testify that the data they’re submitting is accurate and complete. Judges will have the right to request any additional documentation they feel is necessary. All decisions of the judges will be final.
14. Completed applications must be submitted [online](#) by 5:00 PST on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Award Determination

Applicants whose submissions are determined by an independent panel of judges to meet the above selection criteria will be rank-ordered according to the following metric:

At one year post-treatment (or six months post-treatment for programs applying for the first time), what percentage of patients were reachable and claimed to have met their treatment goals for alcohol and non-prescribed drugs during the last 30 days?

Treatment programs whose last-30-day success rate is in the top 5% of all qualified applicants will be awarded the Gold 2020 Excellence in Treatment award. Those in the top 15% but not in the top 5% will receive the Silver 2020 Excellence in Treatment award. And those in the top 33% but not in the top 15% will be awarded the Bronze 2020 Excellence in Treatment award. Judges will have some discretion to make minor adjustments to these categories in the interest of fairness.

Announcement of Award Recipients

The names of all 2020 Excellence in Treatment award winners will be announced at Southworth Associates' Perspectives virtual conference in late October 2020, and winners will be given the opportunity to publicly accept their award. All award winners will receive a beautiful award suitable for display and a 2020 Excellence in Treatment medallion that can be featured on their website. Additionally, the names of all award winners will be announced to the press and will be permanently displayed on [Conquer Addiction's website](#).

The names of applicants who do not receive awards will be kept confidential.