



Agreement for Inclusion in the Conquer Addiction Database and Possible Inclusion in the 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market

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Addiction treatment programs must follow the rules and standards below to be included in Conquer Addiction's database and the 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market:

Application Rules

1. Programs must be currently open, in good legal standing, and be licensed by their state to treat substance use disorder. Additionally, programs must be currently accredited by the Joint Commission, CARF or DNV GL. Programs must inform Conquer Addiction on or before the second business day after they receive notice of termination or suspension of their license or accreditation.
2. Companies operating multiple locations within a particular state may choose to apply as either one combined program or as multiple individual programs. Because separate outcomes results must be submitted for each program, it is recommended that companies that often transfer patients between locations file one application for the combined entity. Companies operating in more than one state must submit separate applications for each state.
3. Each program must submit general information about the program, including a description and picture of the program, where it is located, its website URL, its admissions phone number, the levels of care and special programs it provides, and which insurance companies (if any) it is in network with. Conquer Addiction may edit this information for brevity and style.
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.

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- 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 must choose whether they wish to “start the outcomes research clock” at discharge or at the start of treatment.
 - a. By Discharge Date: Patients (typically those in short-term treatment) would be contacted for outcomes research six months and twelve months after they discharge from treatment.
 - b. By Date Entered Treatment: Patients (typically those in long-term treatment) would be contacted for outcomes research six months and twelve months after the date they entered treatment.
- 6. Subject to the outcomes research rules described below, programs that have been monitoring their patients during treatment and following up with some or all of those patients for outcomes research purposes may choose to apply for a success rating by submitting their outcomes research results to Conquer Addiction’s panel of independent judges. After reviewing the results, the panel will rate each qualified program with between 1- and 5-stars using the following criteria:

Percent of Patients Who Were Reachable & Claimed to Have Achieved Their Drug & Alcohol Usage Goals for At Least the Last 30 Days at One Year Post-Treatment*	Star Rating
40% or Higher	5-Star
35% to 39.99%	4-Star
30% to 34.99%	3-Star
25% to 29.99%	2-Star
Less than 25%	1-Star

*Treatment centers that have started outcomes research in the last 2 years may submit 6 month results

- 7. Programs which have recently started a comprehensive outcomes research program and desire to be temporarily granted “Rating Pending” status must submit either a signed research agreement with an independent outcomes research company recognized by Conquer Addiction’s panel of independent judges or a detailed outcomes research protocol that complies with the Outcomes Research Rules outlined below. These submissions must show that the research has already begun or will start no later than the last day of the month the research agreement or protocol is submitted.
- 8. Programs must pay a nominal, non-refundable fee annually (\$199/year as of September 2024) to be included in Conquer Addiction’s database. This fee covers one outcomes research review each year for success rating purposes. Should the program wish to

submit updated outcomes research results later during the year, it will be charged an additional \$99 research review fee. Fees are assessed equally for all participating programs.

9. Programs which have a 5-star rating will be eligible to participate in Conquer Addiction's 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market. To do so, a program must define at least one episode of treatment it will offer along with its all-inclusive bundled price for the offering. Should a patient who accepts this market offer relapse within 90 days of discharging from treatment and wish to return to the program for additional treatment, the program must cover the full treatment cost for the additional treatment defined in the offer. The details of participating programs' 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market offerings will be published on the Conquer Addiction website. Participating programs will have the opportunity to update these offers once each quarter, and must certify that the details of their 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market offering are accurate and complete. If it becomes necessary to make any changes to their offering other than at the end of a quarter or if a program chooses to withdraw from the market, the program must inform Conquer Addiction prior to making any changes in their offering or withdrawing to ensure the accuracy of the Conquer Addiction website.
10. Conquer Addiction will not accept offers of money, gifts, or other valuable consideration from programs or their agents in exchange for guaranteed favorable program ratings or to otherwise advertise or promote a program in a manner that intentionally favors one program over another. Conquer Addiction will direct consumers to its program database and 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market and will **not** recommend or refer consumers to specific treatment programs.

Outcomes Research Rules

In order for a program's application for a success rating to be accepted, the program's outcomes research must follow the rules outlined below.

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 and patients must be promised confidentiality so they know that they can admit to not achieving their treatment goals 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 inclusion in the research. No more than 30% of the patients who enter treatment and spend at least this minimum amount of time in treatment may be deemed ineligible for the outcomes research due to either

refusing or not being asked to enroll in the research. If this requirement is not met, the program's rating may be downgraded by at least one star at the judges' discretion.

4. Conquer Addiction will not allow programs to selectively include or exclude specific patients for outcomes research purposes. To qualify for a success rating, larger programs must be on track to select at least 275 patients per year from among those eligible for outcomes research via a random-selection process. Random selection must be done by computer algorithm or other mathematical process. Smaller programs must submit data on all patients meeting their minimum selection criteria.
5. Success ratings will not be calculated for programs submitting data on less than 25 patients selected for outcomes research or for patients who qualified for the outcomes research over less than a three-month period starting from the date the program started outcomes research through to the ending date of the quarterly research period.
6. A program must submit 12-month research results unless it meets both of the following conditions:
 - a. The program started doing outcomes research less than two years before the quarterly application date, and
 - b. The program has not previously submitted 12-month results to Conquer Addiction.

Since it takes at least two full years to generate 12-month outcomes research results for a year's worth of patients, programs may submit 6-month results for as long as they meet both of the above criteria.
7. Responses must be collected directly from the patient no more than four weeks before and six weeks after the patient's discharge or treatment-initiation 12 month (or 6 month) anniversary.
8. Conquer Addiction has a separate Professional success rating category. Programs for which more than 25% of the patients are professionals who lose their ability to perform their job if they do not remain abstinent (e.g., doctors, pilots, nurses, etc.) will be judged against success ratings separately defined for this group. Programs for which between 10% and 25% of their patients meet the above definition may submit adjusted results that exclude these professionals.
9. Conquer Addiction also has a separate success rating category for adolescent programs. Programs for which more than 25% of the patients are under the age of 19 will be judged against success ratings separately defined for this group. Programs for which between 10% and 25% of their patients are adolescents may submit adjusted results that exclude these patients.
10. Primary mental health treatment programs that also treat addiction are eligible to apply for a star rating and participate in the 5-Star Addiction Treatment Market according to their results for patients dually diagnosed with addiction. These programs must screen

all incoming patients for substance use disorder and submit results for patients with at least a moderate substance use disorder as evidenced by their reporting experiencing at least four of the eleven DSM-5 symptoms of substance use disorder in the year prior to entering treatment.

11. Applicants must complete all sections of the outcomes research application and certify that the data they're submitting is accurate and complete. Judges will have the right to request any additional documentation they believe is necessary to review, qualify and rate the program. Additionally, in the interest of fairness, judges reserve the right to accept minor deviations from the above rules in certain situations. All decisions of the judges will be final.
12. Updated outcomes research results must be submitted and approved at least once per year. If updated results are not received or approved within one year of the earlier submission, the program will lose its success rating until updated results have been received and reviewed by the judges.

Star Rating Review Periods

Applications will be reviewed by judges four times per year. In order to be eligible for review during a quarter, the completed applications must be submitted online no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on the following Application Due Dates:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Application Due Date</u>	<u>Final Decision</u>	<u>Research Period</u>
First	March 15	March 31	Jan. 1* - Dec. 31
Second	June 15	June 30	April 1* - March 31
Third	September 15	September 30	July 1* - June 30
Fourth	December 15	January 8	Oct. 1* – Sept. 30

* Programs starting outcomes research less than two full years prior may submit data for a partial year beginning on the date their outcomes research program was launched.

The following examples are provided for the purposes of clarity:

- A short-term treatment program which has been doing outcomes research for more than two years and applying in June 2024 must submit 12-month data on patients who discharged from treatment between 4/1/22 – 3/31/23. These outcomes research results need to be collected close to the 12-month anniversary of each patient’s discharge.
- A short-term treatment program applying in June 2024 which started outcomes research on 6/15/22 must submit 12-month data on patients who discharged from treatment between 6/15/22 – 3/31/23. These outcomes research results need to be collected close to the 12-month anniversary of each patient’s discharge.
- A short-term treatment program applying in June 2024 which started outcomes research on 5/1/2023 must submit 6-month data on patients who discharged from treatment

between 5/1/23 – 9/30/23. These outcomes research results need to be collected close to the 6-month anniversary of each patient’s discharge.

- Programs that can submit either 6-month or 12-month results and meet all of the conditions of the Outcomes Research Rules specified above may choose to submit either set of results.

Programs may submit updated outcomes research results as frequently as once each quarter.

Other Rights and Responsibilities

Designated Contact: Each program must designate one person responsible for approving any changes to the program’s details and to whom all notifications will be sent. It is the responsibility of the applicant to keep Conquer Addiction informed if the email address of this designated contact is changed.

Hold Harmless Clause: Conquer Addiction, Inc. has no ownership in any addiction treatment programs. Conquer Addiction, Inc. will, at all times, retain full independence and control over its services, and will not be directed or otherwise influenced by the commercial interests of any program. The organization is organized as a Maryland non-profit corporation and has been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service. Conquer Addiction, Inc. has developed the rules under this agreement in an attempt to help the public by providing a fair and unbiased method by which to measure the relative effectiveness of different addiction treatment programs. By submitting an application to Conquer Addiction, Inc., the applicant-program agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Conquer Addiction, Inc. and its directors, officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, settlements or judgments, liabilities, losses, damages, suits, costs, charges, payments and expenses, including reasonable attorneys’ fees, arising out of or in consequence of the applicant’s inclusion in the Conquer Addiction database or for the decisions made by Conquer Addiction’s independent panel of judges regarding a program’s rating or award eligibility. This clause shall survive the termination of this agreement.

Limitation of Liability: In the absence of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, neither party shall be liable to the other for any lost profits or actual, special, incidental, punitive or consequential damages arising out of or in connection with this agreement; and in no event shall Conquer Addiction’s aggregate liability arising under this agreement exceed the amount of application fees paid or payable to Conquer Addiction by the program in any single calendar year. This clause shall survive the termination of this agreement.

Law, Forum, and Venue: This agreement shall be governed exclusively by its terms and by the laws of the State of Maryland, without regard to the conflict of law rules thereof. The exclusive forum and venue for this agreement’s interpretation and enforcement shall be the state courts of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Severability: All parts of this agreement are severable. In the event that any provision of this agreement should be held to be unenforceable, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

Term and Termination of Agreement: The term of this agreement begins upon payment of the application fee by the treatment program and ends upon termination by either the program or Conquer Addiction, Inc. Conquer Addiction, Inc. has the right to terminate this agreement without notice at any time and remove the treatment program from its database.