




STANDARDS UPDATE GUIDE



ACHC revised one Hospice Accreditation Standard and updated the Glossary of Personnel Qualifications in 2024. Changes align with [2023 updates](#) from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that focus on the addition of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) or Mental Health Counselors (MHCs) to the hospice interdisciplinary team. Summaries of the changes and effective dates are provided.

Organizations must be compliant with changes on the effective date and must maintain compliance throughout their accreditation period.

ACHC Standard	Services Applicable	Update Summary	Effective Date
HSP4-11P	HSP, HIC	<p>➔ Added: Hospice Counseling Services are provided by a qualified therapist and/or counselor in accordance with the state's practice act and the hospice's policies and procedures (418.114(b)(9-10).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Counseling services are provided by a qualified licensed marriage and family therapist and/or qualified licensed mental health counselor in accordance with the appropriate state's practice act, the hospice's policies and procedures and/or job descriptions, and the ACHC Glossary of Personnel Qualifications as defined by the Medicare Conditions of Participation. ■ Current copies of applicable rules and regulations and the state's practice act are available for personnel. 	March 1, 2024
Glossary of Personnel Qualifications	HSP, HIC	<p>➔ Added: Marriage and Family Therapist. An individual who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possesses a master's or doctor's degree that qualifies them for licensure or certification as a marriage and family therapist pursuant to state law of the state in which such individual furnishes the services defined as marriage and family therapist services. ■ Has performed at least two years or 3,000 hours of post-master's degree clinical-supervised experience in marriage and family therapy in an appropriate setting, such as a hospital, skilled nursing facility, private practice, or clinic. ■ Is licensed or certified as a marriage and family therapist by the state in which the services are performed. 	March 1, 2024

ACHC Standard	Services Applicable	Update Summary	Effective Date
Glossary of Personnel Qualifications	HSP, HIC	<p data-bbox="488 254 532 296"></p> <p data-bbox="542 254 943 279">Added: Mental Health Counselor.</p> <p data-bbox="542 296 768 321">An individual who:</p> <ul data-bbox="542 333 1263 785" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="542 333 1263 520">■ Possesses a master's or doctor's degree that qualifies them for licensure or certification as a mental health counselor, clinical professional counselor, or professional counselor under the state law of the state in which such individual furnishes the services defined as mental health counselor services. <li data-bbox="542 533 1263 688">■ Has performed at least two years or 3,000 hours of post-master's degree clinical-supervised experience in mental health counseling in an appropriate setting, such as a hospital, skilled nursing facility, private practice, or clinic. <li data-bbox="542 701 1263 785">■ Is licensed or certified as a mental health counselor, clinical professional counselor, or professional counselor by the state in which the services are performed. 	March 1, 2024

