

## Initial Accreditation Overview

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**Purpose:** To determine if your organization's practices are substantially in compliance with current applicable AABB Standards.

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**Who must be accredited?** Accreditation is a requirement for all AABB Institutional Members. A new Institutional Member must complete the Initial Accreditation Process before beginning a formal accreditation event.

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**Eligibility:**

- The facility must be in business 6 months or more prior to starting the initial accreditation process.
- The facility must submit the 'Locations Table'. If multiple sites, additional fees may be required.
- Cord Blood Banks must submit 'Questionnaire – Scope of the Cord Blood Service'
- Relationship Testing facilities must participate for 2 years in proficiency testing or in an exchange of 12 blinded cases from an accredited relationship testing laboratory.

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**Expectations:**

- Meet eligibility requirements
- All the standards are addressed in facility's policies, processes and procedures (PPPs)
- PPPs are followed as written

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**Timeframe:** The initial accreditation process usually takes a minimum of nine months to a year to complete.

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**Adding a new activity:**

- Facilities that are currently accredited Institutional Members may request accreditation for additional activities at any time. The requirement to complete the Initial Accreditation Process for additional activities may be waived on a case-by-case basis. (NOTE: A facility requesting accreditation as an Immunohematology Reference Laboratory must complete the initial accreditation process.)
  - If the request for accreditation for an additional activity does not coincide with the facility's current accreditation cycle, a separate accreditation event can be initiated for that activity at the request of the facility. All subsequent accreditation events will be coordinated with the facility's assigned accreditation cycle.

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**Requests for accreditation:** Requests for accreditation can be made to the AABB Department of Accreditation and Quality at [accreditation@aabb.org](mailto:accreditation@aabb.org) or 301.215.6492.

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