

2027 Accreditation Process and Criteria Changes

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NAEC President and Vice President

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Agenda for Today's Webinar

- NAEC's mission and current accreditation process/criteria
- Changes to process and criteria for 2027 based on NAEC Board and Accreditation Retreat this summer
- Surgical Data Collection Program
- Reminders about Process
- Q+A



NAEC's Mission

NAEC supports epilepsy centers in delivering quality comprehensive care to people with epilepsy, by setting standards of care, advocating for access to high quality epilepsy center services, and providing knowledge and resources to its member centers.



Reminder: Accreditation Steps

Accreditation Steps	Applicants	Level 3 Center Applying for Level 4 Status*	Accreditation Expires in 2026: Centers Doing Full Process in 2027	Accreditation Expires in 2027 or 2028: Centers Doing Interim Process in 2027
Pay Annual Dues	YES	YES	YES	YES
Complete Center Annual Report	YES	YES	YES	YES
Upload Documents	YES	YES	YES	NO
Surgical Data Collection Program	YES - level 4 centers only	YES - level 4 centers only	YES - level 4 centers only	YES - level 4 centers only

***If your center is currently accredited as a level 3 center and wishes to apply for level 4 status, please notify NAEC.**



Overview of NAEAC Accreditation Criteria

Providers

- Physicians
- Neuropsychologist
- Social worker
- Nursing, APPs, PA
- EEG technologist
- Trained personnel for 24/7 monitoring
- Neuroradiologist
- Training for staff – ASET, AANN, AES and center-specific

Services

- Electrodiagnostic
- Imaging
- Pharmacological
- Neuropsych
- Surgical (level 4)
- Rehabilitative

Protocols / Other Documents

- 9 required protocols
- Patient Education Inventory
- Pediatric-Adult Transition Plan
- EMU Policy
- Order set

Infrastructure

- EMU meeting certain criteria
- Layout and furnishings to minimize risk of injury
- Referral agreement with level 4 center (level 3)



2027 Accreditation Process Clarifications and Changes



2027 Clarifications and Changes

Remote vs. On-site Providers

Neurosurgeries

EMU Policy

Screening for Mental Health Comorbidities

Patient Education

Pediatric/Adult Transition of Care

Surgical Data Collection Program



Remote vs. On-site Providers

- NAEAC is clarifying that level 3 and 4 center Medical Directors are expected to have an in-person presence at the center.
 - Center Medical Directors as part of the annual accreditation process must attest to the staffing, services, and policies of the center by signing the Center Annual Report.
- Center epileptologists are also expected to have in-person presence providing inpatient and outpatient care in the EMU and clinic. Fully remote staff are not acceptable in these roles.
- **This applies to all centers in 2027.**



Neurosurgeries

- Level 4 centers are required to submit a report for a neurosurgery at their accredited hospital (vs. a partner hospital, or another where their neurosurgeon has privileges) to ensure that all associated care for the patient occurs at the center's EMU.



EMU Policy

- NAEAC is adding a new core criterion to be incorporated into the EMU Policy and Center Annual Report:
 - All centers must ensure that a clinician (physician or Advanced Practice Provider) is available 24/7 to evaluate patients in the EMU as needed.
- NAEAC has for many years had a requirement for 24/7 monitoring and is now making explicit that centers must also ensure 24/7 access to clinicians to respond to concerns identified during monitoring and to seizure activity
- **This takes effect in 2027 for all centers.**



New Criteria for 2027 Stemming from the NAEC Guidelines



Screening for Mental Health Comorbidities

All centers will be required to screen for mental health comorbidities. This will be assessed via a yes/no Center Annual Report question:

- Do you regularly screen patients for behavioral health comorbidities and offer referrals for treatment when necessary?

NAEC will also ask some descriptive questions about what screening tools centers use so that we can gather data to consider future changes. **This will take effect in 2027 for all centers.**



Patient Education

All centers must upload an inventory of education materials made available to center patients.

- The inventory must include (but not limited to): seizure first aid, SUDEP, functional seizures, seizure risks and seizure precautions, driving, medication management and patient assistance programs, management of women with epilepsy with childbearing potential, seizure detection devices, and transition of care.
- The inventory document should include details for how each item is shared with patients (such as via links, an after-visit summary, EMR dot phrases, etc.).
- **This will take effect in 2027 or the next time the center completes the full accreditation process.**
- NAEC will release more details and sample documents before the launch of the NAEC accreditation process in November 2026.



Pediatric/Adult Transition of Care

- All centers will be required to upload a document about how they approach pediatric/adult transition of care.
 - Pediatric centers will be required to upload their workflow for how they prepare patients to transition and how they accomplish transition to adult care.
 - Adult centers will be required to upload their workflow for how they incorporate patients transitioning from pediatric care.
- In all cases, documents can be informal vs. strict protocols.
- NAEC will release more details and sample documents before the launch of the NAEC accreditation process in November 2026.
- **This will take effect in 2027 or the next time the center completes the full accreditation process.**



Surgical Data Collection Program



Surgical Data Collection Program

Participation in the Surgical Program is a requirement for Level 4 centers to maintain their accreditation in 2027:

- Level 4 centers are required to submit data on all surgeries performed in 2026, except VNS battery replacements. Centers that do so – and indicate that all cases have been included in the Surgical Program database in a new question in the Center Annual Report – will be excused from completing the Center Annual Report surgical data chart.
- Centers that are **unable to upload ALL** of their surgical data for 2026, will need to submit their aggregate surgical data in their Center Annual Report for 2027.
- Level 4 centers that **do not upload any data** will be conditionally accredited in 2027; the minimum number of cases be uploaded to avoid conditional accreditation is 1.
- **This takes effect for all level 4 centers in 2027.**



Surgical Data Collection Program

- Level 3 centers applying for level 4 for 2027 should contact NAEC staff for access to the data portal.
- Participation in the Surgical Program will not impact Level 3 center accreditation in 2027. Level 3 centers will be invited to opt-in to participate in the Surgical Program in 2027.



Accreditation Process Reminders



Additional Reminders

- Some centers completing full accreditation in 2027 have not completed the full process since 2024.
 - Additional accreditation criteria implemented in 2025 and 2026 will be new for these centers.
- Please review the [NAEC letter](#) sent this summer for details on these criteria.



Timeline

- **November 2026:** NAEC 2027 accreditation process begins; Instructions are distributed.
- **January 31, 2027:** Deadline to pay dues, complete the Center Annual Report, submit surgical case(s), upload required documents to Box.com.
- **February 1-15, 2027:** Review and Revise Period: NAEC staff will review your center's submission for completion and let you know if anything is missing.
- **March 1, 2027:** Final deadline for any revisions and additions. We cannot accept dues or materials after this date.

We will hold webinars in Dec and Jan with a comprehensive overview of accreditation criteria and logistics to answer questions!



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NAEC Website has Many Resources

www.naec-epilepsy.org/accreditation



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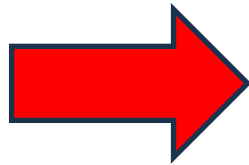
Find a Center



Log Out



NAEC Accreditation



Training

Policies

Sample Documents

Processes

Note: 2027 report isn't live yet!



Surgical Data Program Resources



Member Resources



My Centers

Select a Center to View

 NAEC Test Center2



Surgical Data Reporting

Participation in the surgical data collection program is a requirement for Level 4 centers to maintain their accreditation.

[View Surgical Reporting Resources](#)

<https://naec-epilepsy.org/surgical-data-collection-program>



Q+A



If you have further questions, please email:
info@naec-epilepsy.org

