

Revised Occupancy Norms for NABH Accreditation & Certification for Day Care Centres

1. Eligibility Conditions

While applying for NABH accreditation or certification, an Healthcare Organizations must fulfil both of the following mandatory eligibility conditions:

#	Condition	Explanation
1	Healthcare organisation must be operational for at least 6 months	The Healthcare organisation must have been formally inaugurated and providing inpatient services continuously for a minimum period of 6 months prior to submitting the application
2	NABH standards must be implemented for a minimum of 3 months	The Healthcare Organizations must have formally adopted and begun implementing NABH standards — including documentation, processes, and staff training — for at least 3 continuous months.

IMPORTANT

Both conditions must be satisfied simultaneously. Meeting only one is insufficient. The 3-month NABH implementation period may run concurrently with the 6-month operational period, but both timelines must be independently fulfilled.

2. Minimum Average Bed Occupancy Requirements

The revised minimum average bed occupancy thresholds applicable for the First Cycle are as follows:

Programme	Assessment Type	Minimum Occupancy	Reference Period
A. Accreditation Programme	Final Assessment (1st Cycle)	Minimum 20%	Last 3 months
B. Certification Programme	Final Assessment (1st Cycle)	Minimum 20%	Last 3 months

Key points to note for the First Cycle / Final Assessment:

- The minimum threshold is 20% average bed occupancy.
- This 20% is calculated over the last 3 months.
- Only operational beds are counted in the denominator
- The calculation covers all inpatient days including days when a patient was admitted and discharged/expired on the same day.

3. Eligibility Timeline

Let us trace the eligibility timeline for ABC Day Care Centre:

Milestone	Date	Calculation / Remarks
Healthcare organisation Inauguration / Start of Operations	July 1, 2025	Day 1 of Healthcare organisation operations.
Earliest date Healthcare organisation becomes 6 months old	January 1, 2026	July 1, 2025 + 6 months = January 1, 2026.
NABH Standards Implementation Begins	October 1, 2025	Healthcare organisation began formal NABH documentation and standard implementation.
Earliest date 3 months of NABH implementation is complete	January 1, 2026	October 1, 2025 + 3 months = January 1, 2026.

4. Special Category: Standalone Day-Care Centres

4.1 Definition and Applicable Rule

A Standalone Day-Care Centre is a facility that provides planned medical or surgical procedures to patients who are admitted and discharged on the same working day — without overnight stays. Examples include:

- Ophthalmology Day-Care (cataract surgeries, intravitreal injections)
- Chemotherapy Day-Care
- In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Centres
- Dialysis Centres
- Endoscopy / Colonoscopy Day-Care
- Day Surgery Centres (laparoscopic cholecystectomy, hernia, etc.)

Guidelines:

- Day-care beds will be treated as census beds (inpatient beds) for the purpose of calculating occupancy.
- For such centres, 'inpatient days' is defined as a unit of measure denoting lodging and services rendered to patients between the working hours of the day-care centre (rather than midnight-to-midnight).
- Each patient who attends, receives the procedure, and is discharged within the same working day counts as 1 inpatient day for that bed on that day.

4.2 Worked Example: 5-Bed Ophthalmology Day-Care Centre

Centre Profile

Parameter	Details
Centre Name	XYZ Eye Care Centre (Example)
Type	Standalone Day-Care Centre — Ophthalmology
Services Offered	Cataract Surgery (Phaco), Intravitreal Injections, Pterygium Surgery, Squint Surgery, Minor Eye Procedures
Total Beds (Procedure / Day-Care Chairs/Beds)	5 Day-Care Beds
Sanctioned Beds	5
Operational Day-Care Beds	5 (all operational)
Date of Commencement	August 1, 2025
NABH Standards Implementation Start	November 1, 2025
Working Hours	8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Saturday

Eligibility Timeline

Milestone	Date	Remarks
Centre Inauguration	August 1, 2025	Day 1 of day-care services.
6 Months Operational Condition Met	February 1, 2026	August 1, 2025 + 6 months.
NABH Standards Implementation Start	November 1, 2025	Formal documentation and standard implementation begins.
3 Months NABH Implementation Condition Met	February 1, 2026	November 1, 2025 + 3 months.

Calculating Average Bed Occupancy for Day-Care Centre

For example, the reference period is January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 (90 days).

However, the centre operates Monday to Saturday only. The number of working days in this 90-day period must be calculated by subtracting Sundays and public holidays. For this example, let us assume 76 working days in the 3-month period.

IMPORTANT

For day-care centres, 'available bed days' is calculated based on working days only (not all calendar days), since the centre does not operate on Sundays or public holidays.

Month	Working Days	Available Bed Days (5 beds)	Patient Visits / Procedures (Inpatient Days)	Monthly Occupancy %
January 2026	26	130	31	23.8%
February 2026	24	120	26	21.7%
March 2026	26	130	30	23.1%
TOTAL / OVERALL	76	380	87	22.9%

Calculation:

- Total Patient/Procedure Days (Inpatient Days) = 31 + 26 + 30 = 87
- Total Available Bed Days = 5 beds × 76 working days = 380
- Average Bed Occupancy = $(87 \div 380) \times 100 = 22.9\%$

RESULT

22.9% average bed occupancy exceeds the 20% minimum threshold. XYZ Eye Care Centre MEETS the occupancy criterion for the First Cycle Final Assessment.

What Counts as an 'Inpatient Day' for Day-Care?

In a day-care centre, each patient who is:

1. Formally registered/admitted for a procedure,
2. Undergoes the procedure/service, and
3. Is formally discharged on the same day, counts as 1 patient day (inpatient day) for the bed they occupied during the visit, regardless of whether the procedure lasted 30 minutes or 8 hours.

Example: Ophthalmology Day-Care, typical busy day (5 beds, 8 procedures):

- Bed 1: Cataract surgery performed on 2 patients in sequence (morning + afternoon) → counts as 2 inpatient days for Bed 1
- Bed 2: 1 intravitreal injection patient → counts as 1 inpatient day for Bed 2
- Bed 3: 2 patients for minor procedures → counts as 2 inpatient days for Bed 3
- Bed 4: 2 patients for pterygium surgery → counts as 2 inpatient days for Bed 4
- Bed 5: 1 patient for squint surgery → counts as 1 inpatient day for Bed 5
- Total Inpatient Days for that day = 8
- Available Bed Days for that day = 5
- Day's Occupancy = $(8 \div 5) \times 100 = 160\%$ (turnover >1 patient per bed is normal in day-care)

NOTE

In day-care settings, daily occupancy can exceed 100% because multiple patients may use the same bed during working hours. This is normal and acceptable. For the 3-month average, total inpatient days are divided by total available bed days over the entire period.

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