

Burn Center FAQ

1. I do not have a MRI/PET but want to initiate the service after December 1, 2025, do I need to obtain a license prior to seeing patients?

You cannot see patients until you have submitted an application for that service and a provisional license has been issued. Please note, this does not apply to existing MRI/PET services.

2. What date will Certificate of Need be transitioned to a quality licensure process?

December 1, 2025.

3. What will happen to the current Certificate of Need process?

Effective December 1, 2025, a Certificate of Need will not be required for the initiation of Burn services. The CON requirement will be eliminated. Hospitals that are currently operating or initiating new Burn Unit services must apply for initial licensure specific to the operation of Burn Unit services. This includes licensed hospitals with CON approved Burn Units operating prior to December 1, 2025. All Burn Units must obtain the required license effective December 1, 2025.

4. What are the new requirements regarding the licensure process beginning December 1, 2025?

Burn centers will be required to become American Burn Association (ABA) verified within five years of initial provisional licensure starting December 1st, 2025. And a site review must be conducted, annually by the state, over the course of five years, until ABA verification is achieved. If an existing burn center is actively ABA verified at the time of its initial licensure application, annual site visits are not required, and the applicant facility will be eligible for a full license (non-provisional).

5. What is the American Burn Association (ABA)?

The American Burn Association and its members dedicate their efforts and resources to promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. The ABA has more than 2,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, and hospitals with burn centers. Our multidisciplinary membership enhances our ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational programs.

6. What is American Burn Association Verification?

Statement from the American Burn Association Verification

Becoming a Verified Burn Center is a commitment to setting and maintaining the highest standards of care for burn-injured patients. Verification is a recognized mark of distinction that demonstrates burn centers dedication to providing the best possible outcomes for burn victims. It assures government agencies, third-party payers, patients, families, and accreditation organizations that our center meets the stringent criteria for excellence in burn care, from the moment of injury through the entire rehabilitation process. The ABA has established a Verification process that is objective, fair, consistent, evidence-based, helpful, and efficient. By achieving this status, burn centers align themselves with these rigorous standards, ensuring that they not only deliver exceptional care but also continually strive for improvement and innovation in treating burn injuries. Verification is not just an accolade, but a tangible indicator of the burn center's commitment to the health and well-being of their patients, affirming that they provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to burn care.

7. What is the Burn Care Quality Platform?

Utilizing the Burn Care Quality Platform (BCQP) is essential for optimizing the quality and effectiveness of burn care. The BCQP streamlines the process of collecting patient data, transforming it into actionable insights that directly inform care decisions, quality improvements, and identify opportunities for better patient outcomes. By leveraging this platform, a burn center can continuously evaluate and enhance the care they provide. The ABA's registry is designed specifically to improve both the quality and cost of burn care by systematically collecting and exchanging vital information about burn injuries and their outcomes. This data-driven approach enables us to benchmark our practices, identify trends, and implement targeted improvements. Using the BCQP helps maintain the burn centers' commitment to excellence in burn care, aligning their practices with national standards and continually driving improvements in patient care and outcomes.

8. When do I need to start entering data into the BCQP?

It is recommended that a Burn center starts entering data as soon as the Burn Center is operational as three-years of data is required before a Burn Center can become verified by the ABA. IF you have further questions please reach out to the ABA at <https://ameriburn.org/>

9. Where can I find the Burn Center/Unit application?

<https://www.tn.gov/hfc/quality-service-license.html>

10. What is the application process?

- a. Beginning December 1, 2025, Burn Unit service lines must submit a licensure application to the Health Facilities Commission (HFC) followed by the designated fee*.

*A licensing fee schedule is listed at the end of the application.

- b. Please complete the entire application responding to each applicable field. All applications must be signed by an authorized representative. Incomplete or unsigned applications will be returned which may delay the processing of the application.
- c. All applications will need to be emailed to hfc.service@tn.gov. An email will be sent to the applicant within two (2) business days of receipt verifying that the application was received.
- d. Any hospital seeking to initiate a new Burn service line that was previously not licensed, or seeks to modify Burn Unit services, must submit architectural plans to Plans review through the online portal at <https://apps.tn.gov/tnhcf/>
- e. If a hospital is modifying an existing Burn service line (e.g. renovations or increasing bed capacity), the hospital must submit architectural plans to Plans Review as well.
- f. If an initial service is being implemented, after Plans Review has been completed and approved, a Life Safety Inspector will be sent out within ten (10) days. Within thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days, a health licensure surveyor will be sent out to determine approval.
- g. If the application is for a new Burn service, after the Plans Review approval, a HFC surveyor will conduct an on-site review for the initial occupancy approval.
- h. Upon receipt of the application, HFC staff will review the application for completeness. Once determined to be complete, a service license number will be assigned, and an invoice will be sent to the listed billing contact. The requested license fee will need to be submitted to Health Facilities Commission, following the invoice instructions, by listed due date on the invoice.
- i. Once the license fees have been received, a provisional approval letter will be sent to the Administrator. When complete, the application will then be presented to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting for ratification.
- j. If the Commission ratifies the application, the license certificate will then be created and mailed to the licensee. You should receive the physical license in ten (10) to fourteen (14) days.
- k. If the Commission does not ratify the initial approval of your application, a letter will be mailed to you providing an explanation and specific instructions as to any actions you may take to have the decision reviewed, at which time this authorization shall cease to be effective.

11. Who should sign the application?

Other than the CEO or Administrator of the facility/organization, anyone who has the authority to sign for the facility/organization.

12. We have satellite campuses, are the satellites to submit an application separately from the host?

Each satellite campus must submit a separate application for their services located on the satellite's campus. The host location will submit their application separate from the satellites.

13. What is the cost of the annual site reviews for a Burn Unit?

The cost of the annual site review will be determined through a competitive bid process for site review team members by HFC. Scheduling of annual site visits is expected to begin in late Spring 2026.

14. What is the earliest a Burn Unit can undergo the annual site review?

The current earliest date will be between October and December 2026.

15. Will there be a list of Burn Centers/Units and their ABA verification status posted to a public website?

Yes. A list of verified Burn centers can also be found at <https://members.ameriburn.org/find-a-burn-center-org>

16. Where are the Burn Centers currently located in Tennessee?

Firefighters Regional One Burn Center – ABA Verified

(901) 545-8090
877 Jefferson Ave
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-2807

Vanderbilt University Medical Center – ABA Verified

(615) 421-8387
1211 Medical Center Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37232

Tristar Skyline Burn and Reconstruction Center

(615) 769-2000
3441 Dickerson Pike
Ste 340
Nashville, TN 37207

17. What is the link to the Health Facilities Commission public meetings and where is it posted?

Meetings are public and information can be found at the following link: [TN Health Facilities Commission Meeting Information](#)