

## In this issue

- Field review deadline extended
- The Joint Commission reaches out via social media
- 2009 Annual Infection Control Conference to be held August 21-22
- Free briefings on HCSS Certification in Illinois, Ohio and D.C.
- Briefings for hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory organizations
- Call for emergency preparedness presentations

## Accreditation

### Field review deadline extended

The Joint Commission is extending the deadline to July 31, 2009, for comments on [proposed hospital requirements to advance effective communication, cultural competence and patient-centered care](#). While effective communication is necessary for patient safety, it can be inhibited by language, culture, hearing or visual impairment, health literacy, cognitive impairments, and disease or disability. In addition, racial and ethnic health disparities are linked to poorer health outcomes and lower quality care. As the diversity of our nation continues to grow, there is a need to provide hospitals with more robust guidance to address the needs of the populations they serve. (Contact: Christina Cordero, [ccordero@jointcommission.org](mailto:ccordero@jointcommission.org))

## Public information

### The Joint Commission reaches out via social media

Follow The Joint Commission on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube:

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/JCommission>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Joint-Commission/104533371063>

You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheJointCommission>

(Contact: Cathy Barry-Ipema, [cipema@jointcommission.org](mailto:cipema@jointcommission.org))

## Joint Commission Resources

### 2009 Annual Infection Control Conference to be held August 21-22

The [2009 Annual Infection Control Conference: Mastering Powerful and Practical Infection Prevention Strategies](#) will be held August 21-22 in Arlington, Va., at the Marriott Crystal Gateway. The conference will feature Barbara M. Soule, RN, MPA, CIC, practice leader with Infection Prevention and Control Services at Joint Commission Resources. Soule will discuss how C-suite executives can implement a comprehensive program to reduce antibiotic resistance, and she will moderate a discussion on "Navigating the Infection Prevention and Control Landscape." Panelists for the discussion are:

- P.J. Brennan, MD, chair, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Health Care Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee
- Thomas Valuck, MD, JD, medical officer and senior adviser, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Center for Medicare Management
- Don Wright, MD, MPH, principal deputy assistant secretary of health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Rosemary K. Sokas, MD, MOH, FACOEM, director, Office of Occupational Medicine, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Margaret VanAmringe, vice president, Public Policy and Government Relations, The Joint Commission

The [Annual Infection Control Conference Pre-Conference: The Joint Commission 2010 Infection Prevention and Control Standards](#) will be held on August 20 at the same location. The pre-conference will focus on evaluating an organization's existing infection control program, and developing and

implementing a new or updated program based on the revised 2010 Joint Commission Infection Prevention and Control standards and expanded National Patient Safety Goals. Soule and Louise Kuhny, RN, MPH, MBA, CIC, senior associate director, Standards Interpretation, The Joint Commission, are presenters at this event. The conference is \$749 per person and the pre-conference is \$495 per person. To register, call JCR Customer Service (877) 223-6866 and use code 09064 for the conference and code 09063 for the pre-conference. More information, including an agenda, is available on the JCR Web site, <http://www.jcrinc.com>. (Contact: Leslie LaBelle, [llabelle@jcrinc.com](mailto:llabelle@jcrinc.com))

### **Free Briefings on HCSS Certification in Illinois, Ohio and D.C.**

Not-yet-certified health care staffing firms are invited to attend a free briefing on The Joint Commission's Health Care Staffing Services Certification Program. Attendees will learn about the benefits of Joint Commission certification and the process of becoming certified. The briefings include an opportunity to talk directly with Joint Commission staff about the application process, standards, on-site review and pricing. Attendees will receive free copies of the 2009 Health Care Staffing Certification Manual (a \$100 value), the Certification Handbook, and Review Process Guide. To register, click [here](#). The briefings will be held:

- July 28, 8:30 – 11 a.m., Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Joint Commission Conference Center
- August 13, 9 – 11:30 a.m., Columbus, Ohio, Holiday Inn Columbus Downtown Capitol Square (presented in conjunction with the Ohio Hospital Association's Solutions Staffing Program)
- September 14, 1 – 4 p.m., Washington, D.C., Wardman Park Marriott

(Contact: Dave Eickemeyer, [deickemeyer@jointcommission.org](mailto:deickemeyer@jointcommission.org))

### **Briefings for hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory organizations**

Hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory care organizations can find out all they need to know about standards compliance at Joint Commission Resources' 2009 Breakfast Briefings Web Conference Series. This series focuses on accreditation standards, Standards Improvement Initiative (SII) updates, changes for 2010, the National Patient Safety Goals, and strategies for maintaining continuous compliance with the most challenging standards. Briefings are led by Joint Commission and JCR experts who have successfully implemented compliance initiatives and can help your organization strengthen patient care and raise safety awareness. Each week, these experts will cover the accreditation manual one chapter at a time. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

Organizations can sign up for one connection with multiple attendees participating. Free media downloads will be available after each session, allowing your team to listen to the archived web conferences. The intended audiences for the conferences are: senior executives, accreditation managers, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, patient safety officers, quality and risk managers, and quality directors. Register by August 28 and save \$200 on the \$1,800 cost. Order online by clicking the series name below, or by calling JCR Customer Service at (877) 223-6866.

[2009 Hospital Breakfast Briefings Web Conference Series](#) (Item Code DEP807)

Sept. 10 – Nov. 12, 2009, 9-10:15 a.m. Central Time, every Thursday for 10 weeks

[2009 Ambulatory Breakfast Briefings Web Conference Series](#) (Item Code DEP808)

Sept. 9 – Nov. 11, 2009, 9-10:15 a.m. Central Time, every Wednesday for 9 weeks

(Contact: Gina LaMantia, [glamantia@jcrinc.com](mailto:glamantia@jcrinc.com))

### **Call for emergency preparedness presentations**

The Joint Commission and JCR are now accepting proposals for presentations for the 2010 Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference to be held this spring in Washington, D.C. Presentations should focus on practitioner-based, change-focused practices, including new processes, technologies, techniques or tools, and creative and innovative ideas used for emergency preparedness. Presentations should also relate to The Joint Commission's standards and demonstrate a successful approach to at least one of the four phases of emergency preparedness: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. Presentation proposals must be submitted by August 15, 2009, via an [online registration form](#). Questions may be e-mailed to [EPrep2010@jcrinc.com](mailto:EPrep2010@jcrinc.com). (Contact Leslie LaBelle, [llabelle@jcrinc.com](mailto:llabelle@jcrinc.com))

*An affiliate of The Joint Commission, Joint Commission Resources is the official publisher and educator of The Joint Commission.*