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Accreditation

Clarification of IC requirements related to medical equipment, devices, and supplies

Effective immediately, The Joint Commission has clarified elements of performance 1 and 2 for infection prevention and control standard IC.02.02.01, which address reducing the risks associated with medical equipment, devices, and supplies. The changes to EP 1 affect the ambulatory, behavioral health care, critical access hospital, home care, hospital, laboratory, long term care, and office-based surgery programs, and the changes to EP 2 affects the ambulatory, critical access hospital, hospital, laboratory, long term care, and office-based surgery programs. Over the past year, significant issues have emerged related to cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing medical equipment, devices and supplies (for example, the proper use of steam sterilization and adequate high-level disinfection of endoscopes), which has added to confusion in the field. EP 1 has been clarified to address lower risk processes, such as cleaning and low-level disinfection. EP 2 has been clarified to address higher risk processes, specifically intermediate and high level disinfection along with sterilization. For more information, see the pre-publication standards on The Joint Commission [Web site](#), and the October 2009 [issue](#) of *The Joint Commission's Perspectives*. (Contact: Kelly Fugate, kfugate@jointcommission.org)

Patient safety

Free podcast on improving your influenza vaccination program

The Joint Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are offering a free educational podcast to help organizations prepare for and understand how to meet the demands of the 2009-2010 influenza season, and to improve the effectiveness of their influenza vaccination program. This year's influenza season presents two challenges: 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus in addition to seasonal influenza. This pre-recorded podcast will be available beginning tomorrow, October 15, on The Joint Commission Web site at www.jointcommission.org. The podcast and accompanying PowerPoint presentation will provide:

- Information on how health care workers can keep their patients safe during flu season
- H1N1 situation update from the CDC
- H1N1 vaccine recommendations and availability
- Reasons why health care workers don't get vaccinated
- Tips to overcoming barriers to increase vaccination of health care workers
- Additional resources

After listening to the podcast and reviewing the PowerPoint slides, there will be an opportunity to submit questions electronically. For Joint Commission accredited organizations, requirements regarding influenza vaccination programs are applicable to critical access hospitals, hospitals, and long term care programs; however, all health care organizations may find this information helpful. Presenters include: Carol Friedman, D.O., captain, U.S. Public Health Service, and associate director, Adult Immunization, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Robert A. Wise, M.D., vice president, Standards and Survey Methods, The Joint Commission. (Send questions to: H1N1podcastquestion@jointcommission.org)

The Joint Commission is awarded \$8 million HRSA contract to help medically indigent

The Joint Commission was recently awarded its fifth three-year contract by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care. The \$8 million contract renewal helps BPHC implement its accreditation initiative, allowing more health centers to be accredited and to receive education, training and resources to help them provide safe, high quality services to medically indigent populations. Over the past 12 years, The Joint Commission has conducted more than 1,000 surveys covering ambulatory care, laboratory and behavioral health services in federally funded community health centers, migrant health centers, and health care centers for the homeless. The Joint Commission currently accredits 285 of these federally qualified health centers that provide services to nearly 7 million patients in 1,800 delivery sites located in medically underserved communities throughout the country. Along with ensuring compliance with nationally recognized standards, the unified on-site survey process includes a review of BPHC's statutory requirements in the areas of governance, administration and clinical services, which enables these centers to remain eligible to receive federal funding. More information about the accreditation initiative, including the study "Quality-related Activities in Federally Supported Health Centers: Do They Differ by Organizational Characteristics?" (from the *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*) can be found on the Joint Commission's [Web site](#). (Contact: Lon Berkeley, lberkeley@jointcommission.org)

Share your Stories of Success about improving patient safety and quality

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is seeking real-world success stories to be peer reviewed for consideration as a case study in the new [Stories of Success! Leveraging HIT, Improving Quality & Safety](#) program. The American Society for Quality is co-sponsoring the project, and the National Quality Forum and The Joint Commission have a representative serving on the case study review group. Stories of Success! showcases outstanding accomplishments in the adoption and use of information technology to achieve improved patient safety, quality, effectiveness and efficiency. The call for case studies uses the national priorities established by the [National Priorities Partnership](#) and The Joint Commission's [National Patient Safety Goals](#).

"We want those who are using IT every day to help us identify how technology helps support the six priorities of National Priorities Partnership and The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals and priorities," said Louis H. Diamond, M.D., chair of the HIMSS NPP/JC (National Priorities Partnership/The Joint Commission) Work Group that is leading this project. "These from-the-field examples, focused on national quality and performance improvement, will pinpoint technology's positive impact on the lives of patients." Submit case studies at <http://www.himss.org/storiesofsuccess> by November 16. Selected by peer review, the case studies will be posted on the HIMSS Web site and categorized by the goals met from the National Priorities Partnership or The Joint Commission. Additional educational opportunities with the case studies include a series of quarterly podcasts and a session at HIMSS10, the HIMSS annual conference. (Contact: <http://www.himss.org/storiesofsuccess>)

Joint Commission Resources

Free briefing on HCSS Certification in Florida

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 on October 20, 9 a.m.-noon, at Florida Hospital in Winter Park, Fla. Attendees will learn about the benefits of Joint Commission certification and the process of becoming certified. The briefing includes 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 Health Care Staffing Certification Manual (a \$100 value), the Certification Handbook, and Review Process Guide. (Contact: Dave Eickemeyer, deickemeyer@jointcommission.org)

Improve your organization's environment of care performance

In October, Joint Commission Resources is offering two programs to help organizations improve their performance in relation to the environment of care. Both face-to-face seminars will be held at The Joint Commission Central Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

[Environment of Care Standards: A Primer for Beginners](#): This one-day program provides an overview of the Environment of Care standards as well as sample management plans for: safety management, security management, hazardous materials and waste management, fire prevention management,

medical equipment management, and utilities management. For more information or to register, call Customer Service at 877-223-6866 or visit the JCR Web site.

October 26, 2009 Program code: 09048 Program fee: \$475 per registrant

Environment of Care Base Camp: This two-day program provides comprehensive training on the 10 foundations for managing the physical environment of care. Participants will receive tools that can help achieve and maintain continuous standards compliance, shared by experienced faculty, including George Mills, senior engineer at The Joint Commission. Get updates on recent changes and expectations for managing the physical environment. This seminar is for the professional who wants in-depth information and practical advice for improving compliance with EC standards. For more information or to register, call Customer Service at 877-223-6866 or visit the JCR Web site.

October 27-28, 2009 Program code: 09049 Program fee: \$675 per registrant
(Contact: Leslie LaBelle, labeled@jcrinc.com)

Home Care Executive Briefings: Attend in person or via video

This year's Home Care Executive Briefing, to be held November 4, 2009, at The Joint Commission Central Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., allows attendance in person or virtually through live or archived streaming video. The briefing will provide new information that leaders need to stay up-to-date as well as an opportunity to discuss the critical issues surrounding quality and safety for home care providers. The briefing will help you:

- Understand how accreditation can be a valuable resource in effectively addressing changing industry trends and patient expectations.
- Learn about changes to the Periodic Performance Review (PPR) and survey process.
- Determine how the enhanced survey process will affect your organization.
- Use resources related to the National Patient Safety Goals to determine areas of potential patient risk or organizational risk, and liability.
- Identify effective strategies for complying with challenging standards.
- Explain how Lean and Six Sigma tools can be implemented at your organization to achieve and sustain improvement and enhance return on investment.

Expand your learning experience by attending the Home Care Accreditation Primer and Home Care Accreditation Essentials seminars to be held November 1-3. For more information or to register, click on the seminars referenced below or call Joint Commission Resources Customer Service toll free at (877) 223-6866. The Home Care Essentials seminar is also available via live or archived streaming video. Visit the JCR [Web site](#) for more information about live or archived streaming video.

[November 1, 2009 – Home Care Accreditation: A Primer for Beginners](#)

[November 2-3, 2009 – Home Care Accreditation Essentials](#)

[November 4 – Home Care Executive Briefing](#)

(Contact: Alma Harrell, aharrell@jcrinc.com)

Improve your hospital's accreditation performance

In December, Joint Commission Resources is offering two programs to help hospitals improve their accreditation performance. Both face-to-face seminars will be held at The Joint Commission Central Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

Joint Commission Resources Hospital Accreditation: A Primer for Beginners: Basic information about the accreditation process for hospitals is presented by JCR Consultant Norma Kay Sprayberry, R.N., M.S.N. Participants will learn about the accreditation process step-by-step, get answers to questions, find out how non-compliance with accreditation participation requirements can impact the survey outcome, and become knowledgeable about the wealth of information available to you instantly on the Joint Commission and JCR Web sites. To register for this program, call Customer Service at 877-223-6866 or go to the JCR Web site.

December 2, 2009 Program code: 09054 Program fee: \$199 per registrant

Joint Commission Resources Hospital Accreditation Essentials: This two-day program is led by JCR Consultants Norma Kay Sprayberry, R.N., M.S.N., and Shari L. Martini, R.N., M.A. They will provide a comprehensive look at the accreditation process, standards, and National Patient Safety Goals for the hospital program. They will share experiences and successful implementation strategies observed during surveys and consultations. Find out how to meet the four elements of performance related to qualified

staff receiving and recording verbal orders. Get ideas and tools to help your organization comply with the hospital standards. To register, call Customer Service at 877-223-6866 or go to the JCR Web site.

December 3-4, 2009 Program code: 09055 Program fee: \$679 per registrant
(Contact: Leslie LaBelle, llabelle@jcrinc.com)

Live streaming video and on-demand seminars and conferences

Joint Commission Resources new live streaming video and on-demand seminars and conferences are two convenient options that allow participants to experience popular education offerings in the convenience of their office and at an affordable price. Live streaming video allows participation as the seminar or conference happens. On-demand allows participants to watch the seminar or conference in its entirety or one session at a time. Educate your entire team and provide shared knowledge from which to approach challenges in your organization. Visit the JCR [Web site](#) for the current listing of live streaming video and on-demand programs.

Live streaming video

- Home Care Accreditation Essentials: November 2-3, 2009
- Home Care Executive Briefings: November 4, 2009
- Credentialing, Privileging and Other Requirements: November 5-6, 2009

On-demand

- Hospital Update
- 2010 Hospital Executive Briefings
- Home Care Accreditation Essentials
- Home Care Executive Briefings
- Credentialing, Privileging and Other Requirements

Coming in January 2010

- 2010 National Patient Safety Goals
- 2010 Infection, Prevention and Control Standards
- 2010 Medication Standards
- 2010 Physical Environment Standards

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