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Performance measurement

Stroke Panel advises no change to t-PA measure

At this time, no change is being made to the t-PA administration measure for stroke (STK-4: Thrombolytic Therapy), based on the advice of The Joint Commission's Disease-Specific Care Stroke Performance Measure Advisory Panel, which convened August 12. The panel discussed possible changes to the stroke measure due to a May 28, 2009 science advisory issued by the [American Heart Association \(AHA\)/American Stroke Association \(ASA\)](#) which expanded the timeframe for t-PA administration from three to four-and-one-half hours. The panel recommended that no changes be made to the measure at this time because the Food and Drug Administration has not approved the expanded timeframe. In the meantime, the American Stroke Association's Get With The GuidelinesSM-Stroke (GWTG) program will collect data on several different timeframes. The advisory panel will reconvene in early 2010 to review the GWTG data and to see if the FDA has approved any changes to the prescribing guidelines for t-PA. **Note to certified primary stroke centers:** Currently, there is no penalty (i.e., standards non-compliance) for cases in which t-PA is administered beyond the three-hour timeframe, nor will there be in the future. (Contact: Karen Kolbusz, kkolbusz@jointcommission.org)

Volunteers needed to test blood management candidate measures

The Joint Commission is seeking 50 U.S. hospitals to volunteer for the first phase of testing for the [Blood Management Performance Measures Project](#). This alpha testing requires review of the draft specifications and submission of a Likert scale evaluation and comments. No chart abstraction is required. Participation in the testing will not affect a hospital's accreditation status. This project is supported by unrestricted educational grants from the ITxMSM Blood Science Foundation and ZymoGenetics, Inc. More information is available on the Joint Commission [Web site](#). Interested organizations should [volunteer](#) by September 11, 2009. (Contact: Harriet Gammon, hgammon@jointcommission.org)

Volunteers needed to pilot test draft osteoporosis measures

The Joint Commission is seeking 50 volunteer U.S. hospitals to pilot test three [draft osteoporosis measures](#). This alpha testing requires review of the draft specifications, preferably by a multi-disciplinary hospital team, and submission of a Likert scale evaluation and comments. No chart abstraction is required. Participation in the testing will not affect a hospital's accreditation status. This project is underwritten by an unrestricted educational grant from the Alliance for Better Bone Health. Visit the Joint Commission [Web site](#) for more information. Interested organizations should [volunteer](#) by September 1, 2009. (Contact: Kathleen Domzalski, kdomzalski@jointcommission.org)

Public information

Hospital campuses going smoke-free: what's the trend?

A new study from The Joint Commission projects that a majority of U.S. hospitals will have a smoke-free campus by the end of 2009. The study, "[The Adoption of Smoke-Free Hospital Campuses in the United States](#)," appears in the latest online issue of *Tobacco Control*, a British Medical Journal Group

publication. By February 2008, more than 45 percent of U.S. hospitals had adopted a smoke-free campus policy — up from approximately 3 percent in 1992 when The Joint Commission first introduced standards requiring accredited hospitals to prohibit smoking within the hospital; an additional 15 percent of hospitals reported actively pursuing the adoption of a smoke-free campus policy. The study reveals that non-teaching and non-profit hospitals were more likely to have smoke-free campus policies, and private, non-profit hospitals were three times as likely as for-profits to have a smoke-free campus policy. There was little relationship, however, between the adoption of smoke-free campus policies and the rate at which hospitals provided smoking cessation counseling to their patients.

The study was conducted to determine the national prevalence of smoke-free hospital campus policies and the relationship between these policies and performance on nationally-standardized measures for smoking cessation counseling in U.S. hospitals. More than 1,900 Joint Commission-accredited hospitals responded to a survey assessing current smoking policies and future plans. Smoking cessation counseling rates were assessed through nationally-standardized measures. To date, little has been known about smoke-free policy prevalence and its impact. The research was supported through grants from the Substance Abuse Policy Research Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Flight Attendants Medical Research Institute. It was conducted in partnership with researchers from the Henry Ford Health System's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. [Download a podcast.](#) (Contact: Scott Williams, swilliams@jointcommission.org)

Joint Commission Resources

Take the *Flu Vaccination Challenge*

As flu season approaches, Joint Commission Resources (JCR) challenges organizations to vaccinate more health care workers against the flu. This year's [Flu Vaccination Challenge](#) asks hospitals to strive for a better vaccination rate than achieved last year. Also new this year, ambulatory and long term care facilities are included in the challenge. The *Flu Vaccination Challenge* was created by JCR for the 2008-2009 flu season to increase health care worker vaccination rates and help decrease the risk of passing the flu on to patients. During the 2008-2009 flu season, JCR encouraged hospitals across the country to achieve flu vaccination rates higher than the national average of 42 percent. More than 1,700 hospitals participated in the challenge and 1.1 million health care workers were vaccinated. For the 2009-2010 flu season, JCR is raising the bar by challenging health care facilities to reach a 65, 75 or 90 percent vaccination rate. Those organizations that meet the challenge will be recognized by JCR for their dedication to keeping their employees healthy and helping to protect their patients and residents. (Contact: Gina LaMantia, glamantia@jcrinc.com)

Hospital Executive Briefings

In these tough economic times, health care leaders want to know how health care reform and accreditation will mesh to improve their patient outcomes in a cost-effective manner. This year's Hospital Executive Briefing will provide practical information, solutions and tools that can be implemented immediately to address the ever-changing health care environment. The briefing will help you:

- Identify one Joint Commission initiative that can help your organization provide safe, high quality care.
- Analyze the process redesigns that directly impact your organization's survey process.
- Develop effective plans for dealing with the most challenging National Patient Safety Goals.
- Select solutions to the challenging standards that were scored non-compliant that can be adapted and integrated at your health care organization.
- Communicate to your board and management group the Joint Commission's strategic plan and its impact on accreditation.

Featured presenters include Mark Chassin, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., president of The Joint Commission (September 1 and 11 only), and Ann Scott Blouin, Ph.D., R.N., executive vice president, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. Attendees will receive a hand hygiene monograph CD that will broaden your understanding of the issues and provide practical solutions for strengthening your measurement and improvement activities.

[September 1, 2009 – Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, Ill.](#)

[September 11, 2009 – Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan, New York, N.Y.](#)

[September 18, 2009 – Sheraton Dallas, Dallas, Texas](#)

[Friday, September 25, 2009 – Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif.](#)

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

2009 Annual Conference on Quality and Patient Safety

The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources will host the 2009 Annual Conference on Quality and Patient Safety, “Explore, Enhance and Energize – Leadership for the Future,” September 14 through 16 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Ill. Key note speaker Robert M. Wachter, M.D., professor and associate chairman, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, will speak on efforts to prevent medical mistakes, what is working and not working a decade after the Institute of Medicine’s report on medical error, “To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System.” In addition:

- Jeffrey C. Bauer, Ph.D., partner, Management Consulting – Future Practice, ACS Healthcare Solutions, a medical economist and health futurist, will provide an overview of technology and explore how technology can be optimally used to produce desired levels of improvement in health care. Bauer will also introduce policy prescriptions for successful reform of health care delivery systems that are consistent with national goals.
- Mark R. Chassin, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission, will speak on The Joint Commission’s role in quality and safety, and Ann Scott Blouin, Ph.D., R.N., executive vice president, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission, will moderate the conference.
- Jeanette Michalek, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., B.C., vice president, Planetree, will review how to design and practice patient-centered care.

The early bird rate of \$849—a savings of \$150—has been extended until September 14. A discounted rate of \$829 per person is offered for teams of three or more. To register, call JCR Customer Service at (877) 223-6866 and use registration code 09065. More information is available at the [JCR Web site](#).

Call for presentations for 2010 Annual Conference on Quality and Patient Safety

Proposals for presentations for next year’s Annual Conference on Quality and Patient Safety are being accepted. Presentations should focus on practitioner-based, solutions-oriented improvements and success stories. They should also include new processes, technologies, techniques or tools, and creative and innovative ideas on quality and safety that have achieved sustained improvement. Presentation proposals should be submitted by October 1, 2009, via an [online registration form](#). Questions may be e-mailed to annualconf2010@jcrinc.com. (Contact Susan Murray, smurray@jcrinc.com)

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. **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 ten 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)

Free briefing on HCSS Certification in 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, September 14, 1 - 4 p.m., in Washington, D.C., at the Wardman Park Marriott. 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 Services Certification Manual* (a \$100 value), the Certification Handbook, and Review Process Guide. (Contact: Dave Eickemeyer, deickemeyer@jointcommission.org)

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