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## Patient safety

### Updated sentinel event statistics

The Joint Commission's sentinel event statistics have been updated on the [Web site](#). Since the sentinel event database was implemented in January 1995 through September 30, 2009, The Joint Commission has reviewed 6,428 sentinel events. A total of 6,567 patients were affected by these events, with 4,441, or 68 percent, resulting in patient death. The 10 most frequently reported sentinel events are:

Type	1/1/95-9/30/09	1/1/95-12/31/08	1/1/09-9/30/09
Wrong-site surgery	867	741	126
Suicide	770	698	72
Operative/post-operative complication	710	631	79
Delay in treatment	536	442	94
Medication error	526	492	34
Patient fall	406	341	65
Unintended retention of foreign body*	309	212	97
Assault, rape or homicide	245	218	27
Perinatal death or loss of function	201	175	26
Patient death or injury in restraints	198	189	9

\* Added to reviewable events in June 2005; data represents events reviewed since that time.  
(Contact: Anita Giuntoli, [agiuntoli@jointcommission.org](mailto:agiuntoli@jointcommission.org))

### 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. The pre-recorded podcast is available on The Joint Commission [Web site](#). The podcast and accompanying PowerPoint presentation 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

(Send questions to: [H1N1podcastquestion@jointcommission.org](mailto:H1N1podcastquestion@jointcommission.org))

## Joint Commission Resources

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Mantini, 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](mailto: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. (Contact: Leslie LaBelle, [llabelle@jointcommission.org](mailto:llabelle@jointcommission.org))

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