

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to inform you that effective with October 1, 2008 discharges, accredited hospitals that provide acute inpatient psychiatric services will be able to utilize the Joint Commission's Hospital- Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services (HBIPS) measure set to meet current Joint Commission ORYX performance measurement requirements.

With the implementation of the HBIPS measures, The Joint Commission also will implement an important modification to existing ORYX performance measurement requirements for free-standing psychiatric hospitals. Effective with October 1, 2008 discharges The Joint Commission will offer free-standing psychiatric hospitals surveyed under the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook* the option of collecting and submitting data to The Joint Commission on either the seven measures included in the final HBIPS measure set or nine non-core measures in order to meet their ORYX performance measurement requirements.

Additionally, general medical/surgical hospitals that provide acute inpatient psychiatric services also will be able to select the Hospital- Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services measure set as one of their four sets of core measures needed to meet ORYX requirements for 2008.

Beginning in late 2005, The Joint Commission participated in an ongoing collaborative project designed to develop and test a proposed set of core measure for hospital-based inpatient psychiatric services. During 2007, 194 facilities formally pilot tested the measures. In February of this year the Technical Advisory Panel for the project convened to review pilot test findings and recommended seven measures for implementation by The Joint Commission. Detailed specifications for those seven measures will be available on The Joint Commission's website in early June.

In response to strong field support for the HBIPS measure set, the Joint Commission's Executive Committee has decided to approve implementation of the Hospital- Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services measure set prior to receiving National Quality Forum (NQF) endorsement and Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) approval. Until approvals are received, The Joint Commission will not publicly report hospital performance on the measure set through QualityCheck.org, nor will the data be included in The Joint Commission's Priority Focus Process (PFP) or its Strategic Surveillance System (S3). However, the data will be reported in each hospital's ORYX Performance Measure Report available via secure extranet site and available for use by Joint Commission surveyors in the survey process. Once NQF endorsement and HQA approval have been obtained, collection of the HBIPS measure set will become mandatory for Joint Commission accredited psychiatric hospitals that are not otherwise accredited as a site under the accreditation of a general/medical surgical hospital

Hospitals wishing to take advantage of this opportunity to use the Hospital- Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services measure set to meet ORYX performance measurement requirements should send their request to: <http://manual.jointcommission.org>.