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## Certification

### The Joint Commission Awards first Advanced Certification in Heart Failure Care

Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois, is the first organization in the country to be certified under The Joint Commission's new Disease-Specific Care Advanced Certification Program in Heart Failure. Developed in collaboration with the American Heart Association, this certificate of distinction recognizes exceptional efforts to foster better quality of care and outcomes for heart failure patients. The Joint Commission's new Advanced Certification Program in Heart Failure requires organizations to meet the following criteria:

- Meet the standards and performance measurement requirements under The Joint Commission's Disease-Specific Care Certification program.
- Achieve and sustain for 90 days or more at least 85 percent compliance with the five heart failure performance measures of Get With The Guidelines<sup>SM</sup> - Heart Failure, the American Heart Association's hospital-based quality improvement program designed to close the treatment gap in cardiovascular disease.
- Collect data on Joint Commission core measures for heart failure and use this data in ongoing performance improvement activities.

Through the use of the standards and quality improvement tools, the Advanced Certification Program in Heart Failure promotes successful efforts in heart failure management. Certified organizations must demonstrate: a systematic method of delivering care; successful implementation of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines; a commitment to patient empowerment and self-management; a secure and timely system for sharing information with other providers across the continuum, which safeguards patient rights and privacy; and a comprehensive performance improvement program, which uses data to continually enhance patient care quality. (Contact: Jean Range, [jrange@jointcommission.org](mailto:jrange@jointcommission.org))

## Patient safety

### FDA issues warning about deaths associated with GDH-PQQ glucose test strips

In August, the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning about serious problems with GDH-PQQ (glucose dehydrogenase pyrroloquinoline quinone) test strips. Despite the FDA's prior efforts to communicate the risk, the FDA received 13 reports of death from 1997 to 2009 (with six occurring since 2008) associated with GDH-PQQ test strips in which there was documented interference from maltose or other non-glucose sugars contained in certain therapeutic products. These sugars can falsely elevate glucose results, which may mask significant hypoglycemia or prompt excessive insulin administration. For more information, go to the FDA [Web site](#). (Contact: Megan Sawchuck, [msawchuck@jointcommission.org](mailto:msawchuck@jointcommission.org))

## 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](mailto: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, [llabelle@jcrinc.com](mailto:llabelle@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. 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](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.

#### **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

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

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