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Joint Commission Online to publish weekly

Beginning July 8, *Joint Commission Online* will publish weekly and will consolidate Joint Commission enterprise news. Readers can expect a new issue each Wednesday with news from The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources. This change is being made to decrease the number of e-mails you receive from The Joint Commission enterprise, as well as to make the news you receive more relevant and timely. If you do not currently receive *Joint Commission Online*, click [here](#) to sign up for electronic delivery. (Contact: Caron Wong, cwong@jointcommission.org)

Accreditation

CMS approves continued deeming authority for The Joint Commission's CAH program

On June 26, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services posted its final [notice](#) announcing its approval of continued deeming authority for The Joint Commission's Critical Access Hospital Accreditation program, effective November 21, 2008 through November 21, 2011. For more information about The Joint Commission's Critical Access Hospital Accreditation program, visit the [Web site](#). (Contact: Patricia Kurtz, pkurtz@jointcommission.org, Gail Weinberger, gweinberger@jointcommission.org)

SII chapters for Phase II programs available

The Joint Commission's revised standards, rationales and elements of performance for 2010 for the Phase II programs (behavioral health care, laboratory, and long term care) of the Standards Improvement Initiative (SII) are now available [online](#). The standards will take effect January 1, 2010 and have been placed online to provide all behavioral health care, laboratory and long term care organizations time to become familiar with the new language, ordering and renumbering. The changes are an outcome of the Standards Improvement Initiative, launched in 2006 as part of The Joint Commission's ongoing quality improvement efforts. Also posted is an outline for each chapter and a history tracking report that shows the relationship between old and new standards. Scoring information will be added to the Web site in September 2009. (Contact: Carol Gilhooley, cgilhooley@jointcommission.org)

Field reviews

The Joint Commission invites comment on the following field reviews:

- [Proposed hospital requirements to advance effective communication, cultural competence and patient-centered care](#): Comments will be gathered for six weeks, beginning on June 8, 2009. While effective communication is necessary for patient safety, it can be inhibited by language, culture, hearing or visual impairment, health literacy, cognitive impairments, and disease or disability. In addition, racial and ethnic health disparities are linked to poorer health outcomes and lower quality care. As the diversity of our nation continues to grow, there is a need to provide hospitals with more robust guidance to address the needs of the populations they serve. (Contact: Christina Cordero, ccordero@jointcommission.org)
- [Proposed requirements related to Staffing Effectiveness standards](#): Comments are appreciated before July 10, 2009; however, the field review will remain open until July 22, 2009. The survey of the Staffing Effectiveness standards (PI.04.01.01 for hospitals and HR.1.30 for long term care organizations) has been suspended. This field review, which covers two interim elements of performance, is the first step in transitioning to more effective requirements for evaluating staffing in health care organizations. (Contact: Laura Smith, lsmith@jointcommission.org)

Certification

New eligibility requirement for DSC Certification

Effective immediately, organizations seeking Disease-Specific Care Certification must be accredited by The Joint Commission in order to qualify for review. An exception to this policy is organizations that are not eligible for accreditation of any kind by The Joint Commission; these organizations may seek or maintain certification without Joint Commission accreditation. The change is being made to meet public expectations that Joint Commission certified disease-specific programs also meet applicable Joint Commission standards. Organizations that currently have DSC certified programs and are eligible for Joint Commission accreditation but are not accredited by The Joint Commission will have one certification cycle (a period of two years) to become Joint Commission accredited. If, after two years, the organization does not become Joint Commission accredited, the DSC program will no longer be eligible for Joint Commission certification. (Contact: Jean Range, jrange@jointcommission.org)

Joint Commission Resources

Reminder: JCR Pediatric Conference to be held July 22-23

On July 22-23, Joint Commission Resources will hold its **Pediatric Safety Conference: Safe Care, Quality Care, We Care**. This conference includes:

- Assessment tools you can use for a comprehensive review of pediatric services provided in emergency and inpatient settings.
- Pediatric review tools and checklists to improve patient safety, such as “Tips for Success on Safety Rounds.”
- Emergency preparedness issues facing the pediatric population, including evacuation and emergency services.
- The benefits of using animal therapy for children and how to set up your own successful program.

To register, call JCR Customer Service at (877) 223-6866 or go to <http://www.jcrinc.com/ProductDetails1514.aspx>. The conference will be held in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., and the conference fee is \$749 per registrant. (Contact: Susan Murray, smurray@jcrinc.com)

Call for emergency preparedness presentations

The Joint Commission and JCR are now accepting proposals for presentations for the 2010 Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference to be held this spring in Washington, D.C. Presentations should focus on practitioner-based, change-focused practices, including new processes, technologies, techniques or tools, and creative and innovative ideas used for emergency preparedness. Presentations should also relate to The Joint Commission’s standards and demonstrate a successful approach to at least one of the four phases of emergency preparedness: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. Presentation proposals must be submitted by August 15, 2009, via an online registration form. Questions may be e-mailed to EPrep2010@jcrinc.com. (Contact Leslie LaBelle, llabelle@jcrinc.com)

An affiliate of The Joint Commission, Joint Commission Resources is the official publisher and educator of The Joint Commission.

Extras

[Ambulatory Advisor: Issue 2, 2009](#)

[LTC Update: Issue 2, 2009](#)

[DSC Update: Issue 2, 2009](#)

[BHC News: Issue 2, 2009](#)