This column informs you of developments and potential revisions that can affect your accreditation and certification and tracks proposed changes before they are implemented. Items may drop off this list before the approval stage if they were rejected at some point in the process.

ACCEPTED

STANDARDS AND GOALS
- Revision to demonstrate equivalency with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Distinct Part Units (DPUs) requirements for the critical access hospital program (see article on page 8 of this issue)
- Revisions to demonstrate equivalency with CMS utilization review requirements for critical access hospitals with DPUs in the critical access hospital program and the hospital program

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- Modifications to the accreditation and certification decision categories for all programs
- Revisions to the 2011 accreditation and certification decision rules for all programs

CURRENTLY IN FIELD REVIEW
- Proposed new and revised standards and elements of performance (EPs) for the laboratory program
- Proposed revisions to the physical health examination requirement (CTS.02.01.07) for residential programs in the behavioral health care program.

Note: Please visit the Joint Commission Web site at http://www.jointcommission.org/Standards/FieldReviews to participate in any current field reviews.

CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT

STANDARDS AND GOALS
- Proposed revision to the National Patient Safety Goal on medication reconciliation for the ambulatory care, behavioral health care, critical access hospital, home care, hospital, long term care, Medicare/Medicaid certification–based long term care, and office-based surgery programs
- Proposed standards for the “Primary Care Home” initiative in the ambulatory care program
- Proposed applicability changes to urgent care requirements in the ambulatory care program
- Proposed clarifications and applicability changes to home health standards in the home care program
- Proposed clarifications and applicability changes to personal care and support standards in the home care program
- Proposed standards to encompass the continuum of care provided to heart failure patients in a variety of health care delivery settings in the disease-specific care program for Heart Failure Advanced Certification
- Proposed revisions to the physical health examination requirement (CTS.02.01.07) for residential programs in the behavioral health care program.
- Proposed 2012 National Patient Safety Goals pertaining to health care–associated infections for the hospital and long term care programs.
- Development of a model to integrate performance expectations on accountability measures into a standards requirement for the hospital accreditation program. The tentative implementation date for a new requirement is January 2012.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
- Proposed revisions to the Sentinel Event Policy for all programs