To keep its certification programs current, The Joint Commission regularly reviews program requirements against the latest standards of practice and professional literature for significant developments that may necessitate modifications to requirements.

During a recent evaluation of Advanced Disease-Specific Care Certification for Inpatient Diabetes Care (IDC) in the disease-specific care program, Joint Commission staff referenced the American Diabetes Association’s Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2013* and other recent literature for changes in the field. Staff compared the research findings to the current IDC program requirements and found that there were more contemporary practices than were reflected in The Joint Commission’s certification requirements. Staff determined that five areas within the certification requirements needed enhancements in order to remain current:

1. Care of the critically ill patient
2. Transition of the patient between critical and noncritical units, and from the inpatient to the outpatient setting
3. Insulin pump therapy policies
4. Interdisciplinary team composition
5. Insulin pen infection control

Revisions resulted in enhancements to the “Program Management” (DSPR), “Delivering or Facilitating Clinical Care” (DSDF), “Supporting Self-Management” (DSSE), “Clinical Information Management” (DSCT), and “Performance Measurement” (DSPM) chapters and are effective January 1, 2014. Organizations can view the enhanced IDC program requirements on the Prepublication Standards webpage at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. The requirements will also appear in the 2014 Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual, scheduled for publication in October 2013, and in the fall 2013 E-dition® update.

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