THREE REASONS TO CONSIDER JOINT COMMISSION ACCREDITATION

Recent independent studies have shown that Joint Commission-accredited long-term care facilities outperform non-accredited facilities in a number of key areas:

**Better quality of care outcomes.**

Joint Commission Accreditation and Quality Measures in U.S. Nursing Homes
*Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice*, April 25, 2012

**SUMMARY:** This study is an assessment of the correlation between accreditation and quality measures in U.S. nursing homes. Data was collected using the Nursing Home Compare set of Quality Measures and the Five-Star Nursing Home Quality Rating System. Analysis of all U.S. nursing homes in 2010 showed that the sample of 874 Joint Commission-accredited facilities demonstrated improvement over all categories.

“Comparing quality in the year before accreditation with the 1st year after accreditation, all five Quality Measures and both Five-Star categories demonstrated improvement.”

“…our results would appear to indicate that better quality nursing homes become TJC accredited and that these accredited nursing homes continue to improve their quality after accreditation.”

**Fewer overall deficiency citations.**

Impact of Voluntary Accreditation on Deficiency Citations in U.S. Nursing Homes, *The Gerontologist*, March 5, 2012

**SUMMARY:** An examination of the association between nursing home accreditation and deficiency citations. Citations were divided into 4 categories: resident behavior and facility practices, quality of life, quality of care, and the most severe citations. An analysis of all U.S. nursing homes in 2010 (15,393) show that the 874 TJC-accredited facilities had fewer citations in all 4 of the categories assessed. Overall, accreditation was associated with significantly lower deficiency citations.

“TJC-accredited nursing homes improve their quality immediately after accreditation and continue to maintain these improvements over the long-term.”

“The ability of TJC-accredited nursing homes to sustain improvements in quality over the long-term may relate to TJC’s emphasis on continuous performance improvement as a core function of their accreditation program.”

**Improved resident safety culture.**


**SUMMARY:** The study aimed to assess the impact of Joint Commission accreditation on patient safety culture using a survey sent to a random sample of 6,000 nursing homes from all 50 states. Research analysis found that the 523 nursing administrators at Joint Commission-accredited nursing homes rated 8 of the 11 dimensions significantly higher on the Nursing Home Survey on Resident Safety Culture than did their non-accredited counterparts. The findings support the need for facilitation of voluntary accreditation in nursing homes.

“It has been suggested that the process of sustaining the level of standards compliance required for accreditation can create a safety-oriented culture within a facility. Our results appear to support this contention.”

“…the benefits of voluntary accreditation may ultimately outweigh the cost, given reduced liability insurance costs and increased marketing potential relate to TJC’s emphasis on continuous performance improvement as a core function of their accreditation program.”

Full-length versions of these studies are available, please contact us at 630-792-5020 or email us at NCC@jointcommission.org.