New *Alert* on preventing infection from the misuse of vials

The Joint Commission's latest *Sentinel Event Alert* describes factors that contribute to the misuse of vials and recommends strategies for improvement. Since 2001, at least 49 outbreaks have occurred due to the mishandling of injectable medical products, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The misuse of vials primarily involves the reuse of single-dose vials, which are intended to be used once for a single patient. For multiple-dose vials, one survey of health care practitioners found that 15 percent reported using the same syringe to re-enter a vial numerous times for the same patient, and of that 15 percent, 6.5 percent reported saving vials for use on another patient. Patients exposed to these types of vial misuse have become infected with the hepatitis B or C virus, meningitis and other types of infections.
Revised hospital requirements align with CMS CoPs

Several hospital requirements have been revised to demonstrate equivalency with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services current Medicare Conditions of Participation. Three of the revised requirements, which were effective July 2, 2014, relate to physicians:

- Medical Staff (MS) standard MS.03.01.03 EP 13: Patients are admitted to the hospital only on the decision of a licensed practitioner permitted by the state to admit patients to a hospital.
- MS.06.01.05 EP 15: The surgical service maintains a current roster listing each practitioner’s surgical privileges. *Note: The roster may be in paper or electronic format.*
- Record of Care, Treatment, and Services (RC) standard RC.02.01.01 EP 2, bullet 7: The medical record contains the following clinical information: Any diagnoses or conditions established during the patient's course of care, treatment, and services (including complications and hospital-acquired infections).

* The revisions also apply to rehabilitation and psychiatric distinct part units in critical access hospitals.

New video on Center for Transforming Healthcare

A [new video](#) outlines how the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare is working to transform health care into a high reliability industry, as explained by Leadership Advisory Council members. Erin DuPree, M.D., the Center CMO and vice president, talks about the important role that the Leadership Advisory Council plays in the work of the Center in her blog, "[Video is worth 1,000 words.](#)"

Resources

[New free infographic](#) "[Speak Up: Anesthesia and Sedation](#)" was developed with the help of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists.
**Joint Commission Journal article**  "Medical Identity Theft: Prevention and Reconciliation Initiatives at Massachusetts General Hospital," by Timothy Judson, M.P.H., et al.

**New issues of Quick Safety**  "Potential risks of robotic surgery" and "Improperly sterilized or high-level disinfected equipment"

**AAMI alarm systems management webinar replays**  Help meet The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal on alarm management with free webinar replays offered by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Foundation's Healthcare Technology Safety Institute.

**Blogs & Podcasts**

"Thinking about big data," by Paula Wilson, President and CEO, Joint Commission Resources.

"Violence in the Health Care Setting." Paul M. Schyve, M.D., senior advisor, says physicians have a role in reducing violence in health care.

"The Integration of Mental Health and Medical Care - The Future," by Anne C. Bauer, M.D., field director, Accreditation and Certification Operations.

"Removing treatment barriers for patients with sepsis." Donise Musheno, Black Belt clinician, explains how the Center for Transforming Healthcare's sepsis project is changing the way we treat sepsis. (Podcast - 9:17)

"Spotlight on health IT," with Gerry Castro, project director, Office of Patient Safety. (Podcast - 7:43)

**Upcoming Conferences**

Hospital Executive Briefing:  **Sept. 4, New York; Sept. 16, Los Angeles; Sept. 25, Chicago**

Hospital CMS Update:  **Sept. 5, New York; Sept. 17, Los Angeles; Sept. 26, Chicago**

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