Revised, new CoPs affect governing body, medical staff
As part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ recent efforts to remove unnecessary, obsolete or excessively burdensome requirements, on May 12, 2014, CMS published changes to its Conditions of Participation (CoPs) for hospitals. The changes made that may be of interest to you primarily relate to the governing body and medical staff CoPs. The CoP revisions include new requirements that allow multihospital systems with separately certified hospitals to have a unified, integrated medical staff; and require periodic governing body consultation with the individual responsible for the medical staff (or his or her designee). The Outpatient Services CoP was also revised to clarify that outpatient services can be ordered by a practitioner not appointed to the medical staff as long as he or she meets certain criteria (see the revised EPs for the detailed criteria).

Current Joint Commission standards meet or exceed many of the requirements published in the rule. However, some standards changes were made which related to medical staff structure, bylaws, and orders for outpatient services.

The Joint Commission is in discussion with CMS related to its standards changes. If any additional changes are made to its standards, The Joint Commission will communicate those changes as soon as possible. The revised EPs are effective September 29, 2014.

Apply now for a 2014 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award
Application forms are available on The Joint Commission and National Quality Forum websites and are due to the NQF by September 30, 2014.

New survey tool for home care pharmacies that compound medicines
Joint Commission surveyors are using a new risk assessment tool that enhances the survey process for home care pharmacies that compound medicines. Because the number of serious compounding errors has increased nationally, The Joint Commission developed the tool after reviewing the compounding practices at accredited home care organizations and meeting with stakeholders. Read more
**Joint Commission Journal article:** "An Interview with Paul O'Neill," interviewed by Meghan Pillow, R.N., CCRN.

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**Newsletters**

**Sentinel Event Alert**: "Managing risk during transition to new ISO tubing connector standards." In an effort to prevent dangerous tubing misconnections, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has developed new international manufacturing standards for connectors. The new connectors will make it nearly impossible to connect tubing delivery systems that serve different functions. Although connectors manufactured to the new specifications are expected to enter the marketplace by October 2014, the old connectors will remain in use until supplies are depleted. The Joint Commission is alerting health care organizations to begin preparing for the changes in connectors and do everything possible during the transitional period to avoid tubing misconnections.

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**Quick Safety** Issue Five, Preventing violent and criminal events

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**Blogs & podcasts**

**Fighting costly and complex ... with your help.** Daniel J. Castillo, M.D., M.B.A., medical director, discusses the complexity and waste in the U.S. health care system and what physicians can do about it.

Mark Crafton, M.P.A., M.T.(ASCP), executive director of communications and external relations, discusses The Joint Commission's latest safety publication, **Quick Safety**. [Podcast - 7:50]

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**NEWS LINKS**

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Ana Pujols McKee, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, The Joint Commission

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