New Perinatal Care Certification in development; standards field review available

The Joint Commission is developing a new Perinatal Care Certification program, which will launch in July 2015. The proposed requirements for the program are available for field review through October 17, 2014. Perinatal health care is a growing concern in the United States. According to 2010 data from the World Health Organization, the United States ranks behind at least 30 other countries in decreasing maternal and neonatal mortality, improving low birth weight rates, and increasing exclusive breastfeeding. This is despite spending far more on maternity care than any other industrialized country.

The new certification will focus on essential, high-value requirements designed to improve perinatal outcomes for mothers and newborns who have been assessed as clinically uncomplicated. This certification will result in certified programs that are able to provide:

- Integrated, coordinated patient-centered care from prenatal through postpartum care
- Early identification of high-risk pregnancies and births, and management of patients’ risks at a level that corresponds to the program’s capabilities
- Direct care or stabilizing and transferring patients who require care beyond the scope of services provided by the organization, such as with identified high-risk pregnancies or unanticipated high-risk pregnancies, and births or maternal/fetal/newborn problems
- Patient education and information about perinatal care services available to meet patients’ needs, so that they can make informed decisions about their care
- Ongoing quality improvement processes for making improvements to the program throughout the continuum of care, which includes program-specific quality improvement requirements in addition to The Joint Commission Perinatal Care Core Measures
Submit your suggestion for a new Disease-Specific Care Certification program
The Joint Commission will now review and consider adding new Disease-Specific Care Certification (DSC) programs. Just fill out a form, provide information about the program you wish to have considered for certification, and send it to The Joint Commission. The completed form will be reviewed by the DSC Review and Approval Team to determine if The Joint Commission may be able to partner with the applicant in establishing a new certification program for all interested customers. For more information, or to obtain a form, please contact your account executive at 630-792-3005.

New requirement for palliative care rep on VAD interdisciplinary team
Effective October 2014, Joint Commission standards will require Ventricular Assistance Device (VAD) interdisciplinary teams to add a palliative care expert. Palliative care focuses on improving quality of life for the patient and family living with a life-threatening illness. This addition was made in order to respond to the unique needs of patients suffering from severe cardiac disease, as well as the needs of their families. The requirement also meets the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) facility criteria under the revised Medicare National Coverage Determination for Ventricular Assist Devices, which was effective October 30, 2013.

Complimentary teleconference on stroke performance measure STK-4 Thrombolytic Therapy
On November 5, 2014, from 1-2 p.m. CT, The Joint Commission will host a complimentary teleconference on modifications to the STK-4 Thrombolytic Therapy measure specifications and the time frame for implementation, in addition to a review of the performance measure requirements for the Advanced Primary Stroke Center and Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification programs. The teleconference is for currently certified primary and comprehensive stroke centers, as well as health care organizations considering Disease-Specific Care (DSC) stroke certification or collecting stroke core measure data to meet hospital accreditation requirements. One hour of continuing education (CE) credit (ACCME, ANCC, ACHE, IACET) will be offered to participants who listen to the conference call in its entirety and complete an online post-evaluation. Participants are asked to register individually to be eligible for CE credit. Registration details will be posted on www.jointcommission.org/PSC.

Check out The Joint Commission’s one-stop resource for disaster preparedness
The Joint Commission recently launched an Emergency Management Resources Portal that provides free disaster preparedness resources in one place. You’ll find:
- Standards FAQs, revisions to requirements, and news statements related to emergency preparedness
- Crisis and weather management resources from the American Meteorological Society, the Annals of Emergency Medicine and regional health systems
- Information about codes and alerts, exercises and drills, and public health readiness
- Links to recent, relevant articles published in Environment of Care® News
Questions or comments may be sent to emergencypreparedness@jointcommission.org.

For more information: The Joint Commission Certification web page
Send questions or comments to: dscinfo@jointcommission.org or staffingcert@jointcommission.org
Questions about the redesigned E-App?
The Joint Commission's redesigned and improved E-App (electronic application) launched this summer for the following certification programs: Disease-Specific Care (DSC), Ventricular Assist Device, Lung Volume Reduction Surgery, Health Care Staffing and Palliative Care. The new E-App features:

- 24/7 access
- More intuitive and user-friendly design
- Organization dashboard displaying upcoming events and actions due
- Pre-populated fields based on the organization’s current E-App. New information is collected through the E-App to help reviewers better prepare for the review.
- Straightforward language with clear instructions
- Improved printing functionality, including customizable printing

Also, with the launch of the new E-App, each distinct certification program is on an independent due date and cycle. As a reminder, the E-App provides for the identification of five “black-out” dates per DSC program (for example, an organization with two DSC programs could identify 10 black-out dates). Once submitted, the E-App is valid for 6 months. Resources – including a video tutorial and E-App checklist – for the E-App are available on your organization’s Joint Commission Connect extranet. For more information, send an email to certeapp@jointcommission.org or contact your account executive. If your organization is applying for the first time, contact our Business Development staff at 630-792-5291.

Certification Resources
- 2014 Disease-Specific Care Review Process Guide
- Recording and slides from August 29 teleconference: The Savvy PSC: Review of the 2014 Primary Stroke Center Certification Standards
- New issues of Quick Safety:
  - Issue Six – September 2014: Reviewing maternal morbidity
  - Issue Five – August 2014: Preventing violent and criminal events
  - Issue Four – July 2014: Preparing for active shooter situations
  - Issue Three – June 2014: Potential risks of robotic surgery
- New blogs and podcasts:
  - Doing No Harm, Paul M. Schyve, M.D, senior advisor, discusses the obligation of all health care providers to do no harm.
  - Don’t make me wait! Ronald M. Wyatt, M.D., M.H.A., medical director, discusses how delays in treatment can be potentially life threatening and what organizations can do to combat the problem.
  - Teach a Patient to Fish - Part 1 of a series on patient engagement, Ronald M. Wyatt, M.D., M.H.A., medical director, talks about ways to encourage patients to become partners in their health care.
  - Vial Safety. Lisa Waldowski, M.S., APRN, CIC, discusses The Joint Commission’s Sentinel Event Alert on preventing infection from the misuse of vials as well as the CDC’s “One and Only” campaign. [Podcast 5:52]

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<td>13-15 Center to Advance Palliative Care National Seminar, Orlando, Florida Register</td>
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<td>15-19 American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, Chicago, Illinois Register</td>
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For more information: The Joint Commission Certification web page
Send questions or comments to: dscinfo@jointcommission.org or staffingcert@jointcommission.org