New: Integrated Care Certification program
A new, voluntary Integrated Care Certification program is now available for Joint Commission-accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory health care providers. Certification requirements emphasize building a strong foundation made up of structures, processes and a culture that leads to successful integration of care and improved patient outcomes. During on-site visits, Joint Commission reviewers will evaluate clinical integration, hand-off communications, management of information, patient and family engagement, and performance improvement activities spanning the integrated sites. The certification’s initial focus is to promote and support clinically integrated patient care among hospitals and ambulatory health care providers. Over time, the scope will expand to include other health care services along the continuum of care. (Contact: qualityhospitals@jointcommission.org)

Clarification: Annual equipment performance evaluations for diagnostic imaging services
Accredited organizations providing diagnostic imaging services (including ambulatory care organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification) have until July 1, 2016 to comply with the requirement for an annual performance evaluation of imaging equipment. In January, The Joint Commission posted the new and revised diagnostic imaging requirements. Since these requirements are effective July 1, 2015, organizations have until July 1, 2016 to complete the annual equipment evaluation. The requirements will be published in E-dition® and the ambulatory health care, critical access hospital and hospital accreditation manuals later in the year. (Contact: Andrea Browne, abrowne@jointcommission.org)

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 19-25
During Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 19-25, The Joint Commission salutes the nation’s medical laboratory professionals who perform and interpret more than 10 billion laboratory tests every year. Since the 1920s, the clinical laboratory professional has played an increasingly vital role in the diagnosis and prevention of disease, and is a key member of the health care team. Members of this elite cadre include Joint Commission-employed medical technologists, cytotechnologists and pathologists who perform surveys for The Joint Commission’s Laboratory Accreditation program. These skilled professionals must have clinical experience working in three or more technical specialty areas of laboratory medicine and at least five years of laboratory management experience. This week’s Leadership Blog: Unseen but results driven by Stacy Olea, M.B.A., MT (ASCP), FACHE, executive director, Laboratory Accreditation, talks about the important role of these often unsung health care professionals. (Contact: Stacy Olea, solea@jointcommission.org)
**Resources**

**Advancing Excellence workshop on disrupting infections in nursing homes**

An upcoming workshop – *Disrupt Infections: Creating a Community of Prevention* – will educate nursing home staff on simple, practical ways to build community immunity in the care setting. Sponsored by the **Advancing Excellence in Long-term Care Collaborative**, of which The Joint Commission is a member, the workshop will raise awareness of how current practices inhibit newer, evidence-based actions that would disrupt infections. Participants will be guided in developing a new infection prevention plan and given steps to apply to their usual infection care routines. The workshop will be held in 30 cities nationwide. The cost is $79, with a sliding fee for others from the same care community. Continuing education credits are also available. [Register](#). (Contact: Gina Zimmermann, gzimmermann@jointcommission.org)

**New on the Web**

- **Free webinar:** [Perinatal Care (PC) Core Measures: Updates for 2015](#), Thursday, May 14, noon-1:30 p.m. CT.
- **Standards FAQ:** [CAMBHC - Behavioral Health Care - Staff Health Screening](#)
- **Blog posts:**
  - *Ambulatory Buzz:* [Gearing up for ASCA](#)
- **Podcast:** [ASC’s Deemed Status Survey Tips](#) by Michael Kulczycki, executive director, Ambulatory Care Accreditation
- **JCR education programs:**
  - [Stroke Certification Program](#): May 21, Lombard, Illinois
  - [Home Care Accreditation Essentials](#): May 21-22, Lombard, Illinois
  - [Hospital CMS Basics](#): June 23, Oak Brook, Illinois
- **Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation 40th year:** 2003

Learn more about [Joint Commission Resources’](#) offerings online or call 877-223-6866.