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Safety culture

Article highlights ways to accelerate the adoption of a safety culture
The March/April issue of Healthcare Executive magazine features an interview with Ana Pujols McKee, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer, The Joint Commission, discussing how to build a culture of safety. Read the article, "Accelerating the Adoption of a Safety Culture," by Susan Birk to find out why Dr. McKee says it is "probably the most challenging work that a health care organization has to do."

Performance measurement

Performance measure PC-05a removed from 2015 Top Performer® measure list
The Joint Commission has removed the perinatal care performance measure – PC-05a: Exclusive breast milk feeding considering mother’s initial feeding plan – from the list of measures used in the Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® recognition program for 2015. The change was made in response to feedback received by The Joint Commission concerning documentation requirements for the measure that do not follow the typical hospital work flow and require development of new processes to assure that appropriate documentation is present in the newborn’s medical record. In recognition of these concerns, The Joint Commission concluded that inclusion of this measure in the 2015 Top Performer program (using 2014 data) would not provide hospitals sufficient lead time to achieve the goal of the Top Performer program – to recognize accredited hospitals that attain and sustain excellence in accountability measure performance.

Although PC-05a will not be used in the 2015 Top Performer calculation, data collection and publication of the results for this measure on Quality Check® will continue. Some hospitals have been very successful in achieving excellent performance on this difficult measure. The Joint Commission hopes to use the experience of these organizations to identify “lessons learned” for other hospitals. To view the accountability measures for which CY 2014 data will be used for 2015 Top Performer recognition, visit The Joint Commission Web site. (Contact: Top Performer program, topperformersprogram@jointcommission.org)

Accreditation

Accreditation decision policy change for organizations undergoing initial surveys
Effective immediately, any organization undergoing an initial Joint Commission survey may receive one of two possible accreditation decisions: Accredited or Denial of Accreditation. An initial survey is defined as “an accreditation survey of an organization that has not been accredited by The Joint Commission for at least four months or an accreditation survey of an organization undergoing its first Joint Commission survey.” Since these organizations have typically not been surveyed and accredited by The Joint Commission, the organization must demonstrate the capability to meet Joint Commission standards before they can be rendered an Accredited decision. Note: Organizations seeking to renew their accreditation are still subject to the full range of accreditation decisions, which include, Denial of Accreditation, Preliminary Denial of Accreditation, Contingent Accreditation, Accreditation with Follow-up Survey, Preliminary Accreditation and Accredited.

For more information, see the article in the March 2015 issue of Joint Commission Perspectives. A description of the revised process will be published for all programs in the spring E-edition®. (Contact: Account Executive, 630-792-3007)
People

New members appointed to Joint Commission, Center for Transforming Healthcare Boards
The Joint Commission has appointed new members to its Board of Commissioners and Executive Committee, and the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare’s Board of Directors. Appointees include:

- Board of Commissioners: Joan Shinkus Clark, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC, CENP, FACHE, FAAN; Marie Knedler, R.N., M.S., M.B.A., FACHE; and Carlos A. Pellegrini, M.D., FACS, FRCSI (Hon).
- Executive Committee (these members also serve on the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare’s Board of Directors): Chair Craig W. Jones, FACHE; Vice Chair David L. Bronson, M.D., M.A.C.P., FRCP Edin; Chair of the Finance Committee J.B. Silvers, Ph.D.; L.D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, FCCM, FRCSEng (Hon), FRCSEd (Hon), FWACS (Hon); Member-at-large Rebecca J. Patchin, M.D.; and Member-at-large David Perrott, D.D.S., M.D., M.B.A., FACS.

Read the full news release. (Contact: Kim Andersen, kandersen@jointcommission.org)

Resources

Free IOM workshop March 24: Health Literacy and Consumer Facing Technology
The Institute of Medicine’s (IOM’s) Roundtable on Health Literacy will hold a workshop, Health Literacy and Consumer Facing Technology, from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. ET on March 24 in Washington, D.C. The workshop will include presentations on health literate digital design strategies, consumer engagement in health IT, health IT and select populations. You can attend in person or virtually via the IOM website. Register here.

New on the Web

- Reprepublication standards: Integrated Care Certification Program
- Emergency Management Resources: Leadership through Crisis – Lessons Learned from 26 Years as a CEO. Presentation by Blair Sadler, J.D., Institute for Healthcare Improvement senior fellow and past president/CEO of Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego, California.
- Upcoming webinars:
  - Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) and Health IT Safety, noon-1:30 p.m. CT, Thursday, March 19. The fourth in a 10-part series from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.
  - Preparation Essentials for new Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification, noon-1 p.m. CT, March 31.
- Webinar replay: Strategies for a Successful Behavioral Health Care Survey
- Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation 40th year: Recognizing 2001

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.