In this issue

Expert feedback needed on revised diagnostic imaging standards through October 24
Corrected: Standards BoosterPak on waived testing standards
Revised: CMS replaces flash sterilization with Immediate Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS)
Free webinar replay on the misuse of vials, a follow up to Sentinel Event Alert #52
CDC hospital checklist provides detailed information for Ebola preparedness
AFR names Marx 2014 Recovery Advocate of the Year

New on the Web

Accreditation

Expert feedback needed on revised diagnostic imaging standards through October 24
Clinicians and radiology staff with expertise in diagnostic imaging are encouraged to provide feedback on a new field review available through October 24. Earlier this year, The Joint Commission postponed the implementation of new and revised diagnostic imaging requirements because it was determined that further research was needed to ensure that the new standards sufficiently supported improvements in quality and safety. The field review addresses:

- Minimum qualifications for radiologic and nuclear medicine technologists who perform computed tomography (CT) exams.
- Orientation of technologists on safe practices related to the provision of diagnostic imaging
- Documentation of CT radiation dose

The revised requirements will apply to accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory care organizations that provide diagnostic imaging services, including those ambulatory organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification. (Contact: Joyce B. Marshall, jmarshall@jointcommission.org)

Corrected: Standards BoosterPak on waived testing standards
The recently published Standards BoosterPak™ on waived testing has been corrected and posted to The Joint Commission Connect Extranet. It was pointed out that in Figure 2 on page 29, “amnio test” was listed as a highly complex test. However, the Food and Drug Administration classifies this as a test of moderate complexity. The BoosterPak is applicable to all accredited organizations in which waived testing is performed and provides regulatory requirements, implementation expectations, strategies for compliance, and links to additional resources. (Contact: LuAnn Vis, lvis@jointcommission.org)

Revised: CMS replaces flash sterilization with Immediate Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS)
In August, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) replaced the term “flash” sterilization with “Immediate Use Steam Sterilization” (IUSS) in surgical settings (Survey and Certification (S&C) Memorandum: 14-44-Hospital/CAH/ASC). The change applies to Medicare-participating hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers that are subject to the Conditions of Participation (CoPs) or Conditions for Coverage (CfCs). The change, recommended by organizations with expertise in infection prevention and control and instrument sterilization, was made because the term “flash” sterilization is outdated. The memo reiterates and updates infection prevention and control guidelines and supersedes S&C Memorandum 09-55. (Contact: Mary Beth Bresch White, mbreschwhite@jointcommission.org)

Patient safety

Free webinar replay on the misuse of vials, a follow up to Sentinel Event Alert #52
Learn more about how to use vials safely by accessing a free replay of a follow-up to Sentinel Event Alert #52. Hosted by The Joint Commission, the webinar includes guest speakers from:

- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Children's Hospital Colorado (Denver)

www.jointcommission.org
• Institute for Safe Medication Practices
• Food and Drug Administration

CDC hospital checklist provides detailed information for Ebola preparedness
A new checklist developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides practical suggestions to help hospitals detect possible Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases, protect employees, and respond appropriately. Many of the signs and symptoms of EVD are non-specific and similar to those of many common infectious diseases, as well as other infectious diseases with high mortality rates. Transmission can be prevented with appropriate infection control measures. The checklist and additional information is available on the Emergency Management portal on The Joint Commission website. (Contact: Lynn Bergero, lbergero@jointcommission.org)

People

AFR names Marx 2014 Recovery Advocate of the Year
Megan Marx, M.P.A., associate director, Behavioral Health Care Accreditation, The Joint Commission, has been named the 2014 Recovery Advocate of the Year by Advocates for Recovery (AFR). Marx leads the Colorado Coalition for Parity, a group of organizations that advocate for the implementation and regulation of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. (Contact: Megan Marx, mmarx@jointcommission.org)

Resources

New on the Web
• Podcast: Take 5 with The Joint Commission: Vial Safety. Lisa Waldowski, M.S., APRN, CIC, infection control specialist, discusses The Joint Commission’s Sentinel Event Alert on preventing infection from the misuse of vials as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “One and Only” campaign.
• Blog post: JC Physician Blog: Doing No Harm. Paul M. Schyve, M.D, senior advisor, discusses the obligation of all health care providers to do no harm.
• New fact sheet: Facts about Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) accreditation
• Upcoming JCR seminars and conferences:
  o Home Care Executive Briefings – Home Health: October 28, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Home Care Executive Briefings – Hospice: October 28-29, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Ambulatory Care Conference: November 13-14, Rosemont, Illinois
  o Environment of Care Base Camp: December 2-3, Lake Buena Vista, Florida
  o Exploring the Life Safety Chapter: December 4-5, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ education programs and publications at www.jcrinc.com or call 877-223-6866.