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Accreditation and certification

Joint Commission announces 2016 accreditation and certification decision rules
The Joint Commission’s Board of Commissioners recently approved the 2016 accreditation and certification decision rules for all accreditation and certification programs. These decision rules are effective for surveys and reviews beginning Jan. 1, 2016.

Changes include:
- Separated decision rules for organizations seeking initial accreditation and organizations seeking reaccreditation
- Revisions to Contingent Accreditation and Accreditation with Follow-up Survey so that organizations now have two opportunities to come into compliance with the standards
- A revision that addresses instances in which organizations fail their Medicare follow-up survey
- Added new Evidence of Standards Compliance and Measures of Success to clarify that failure to successfully address all Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) may require the second submission of an ESC or MOS, respectively
- Added three new decision categories:
  - Medicare Survey
  - Condition-Level Deficiency, to clarify that a Medicare follow-up survey will occur if organizations have any condition-level deficiencies
  - Not Certified, to address failure to submit payment for review fees or annual fees

These new accreditation and certification decision rules also will be included in the November E-dition®. For more the complete list of decision rules, see the October issue of The Joint Commission Perspectives. (Contact: Gail Weinberger, gweinberger@jointcommission.org)

Effective immediately, the Life Safety (LS) chapter is no longer applicable for Joint Commission-accredited, office-based surgery practices. The removal of the LS chapter aligns with revised eligibility criteria for office-based surgery practices that became effective Jan. 1, 2015.

The revised criteria limits office-based surgery practices to a business occupancy, which is an occupancy having three or fewer patients at the same time who are either rendered incapable of self-preservation in an emergency or are undergoing general anesthesia. However, the LS chapter applies to organizations classified as an ambulatory health care occupancy, which is an occupancy having at least four patients at the same time who are either rendered incapable of self-preservation in an emergency or are undergoing general anesthesia. (Contact: John Fishbeck, jfishbeck@jointcommission.org)
Quality and safety

John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award applications due Oct. 30
Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award, which recognizes major achievements for individuals and organizations in improving patient safety and health care quality.

The Eisenberg Awards were established in 2002 by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and The Joint Commission in memory of John M. Eisenberg, MD, director of the agency for healthcare research and quality. Eisenberg was a member of the founding board of directors of NQF and an impassioned advocate for health care quality improvement.

The accomplishments of award nominees/applicants should be clearly linked to the principles that Eisenberg promoted throughout his career. These include:

- Dedication to improving the quality of health care and patient safety
- Leadership in advancing methods for measuring and reporting health care quality
- Expanding the public’s capacity to evaluate the quality and safety of health care
- Promoting health care choices based upon information about safety and quality

Applications are due to the NQF by Oct. 30. (Contact: Amy Shaw, EisenbergAwards@qualityforum.org)

People

Joint Commission’s president named to Top 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare list
Modern Healthcare magazine unveiled its annual list of the most influential people in healthcare in its Aug. 24 issue.

The Joint Commission President and CEO Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, was No. 64 — up from No. 82 in 2014 — in the Top 100 list.

Read the whole list.

Resources

AAMI Foundation hosting patient safety seminar, one hour CRTE credit available
The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation Foundation is offering a free patient safety seminar from noon to 1 p.m. ET, Friday, Sept. 25, that examines how hospitals can develop and maintain effective ventilator alarm management strategies. The seminar — Enhancing Patient Safety with Appropriate Ventilator Alarm Management — can help health care facilities comply with The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goal on alarm management. The American Association for Respiratory Care has approved one contact hour of Continuing Respiratory Therapist Education credit for those who attend the live seminar. Register.

New on the Web

- Blog: Ambulatory Buzz — Saluting 50 years
- Disease-Specific Care Certification Preparation Webinar (Part 1) — Noon to 1 p.m. CT, Thursday, Oct. 1.
- Why We Hire Joint Commission Certified Staffing Firms Webinar — Noon to 1 p.m. CT, Tuesday, Oct. 13.
- Disease-Specific Care Certification Preparation Webinar (Part 2) — Noon to 1 p.m. CT, Monday, Oct. 19.
Upcoming events

- Hospital Executive Briefings — New York, Oct. 5. This event includes reviews of the most challenging standards, any changes coming in 2016, information about the new Physical Environment Portal, a session devoted to discovering the link between infection prevention and control standards, and a question and answer panel with leaders from The Joint Commission. Register: New York.

- Behavioral Health Care Conference — Set for Oct. 15-16 in Rosemont, the conference will focus primarily on person-centered care and how the accreditation standards can position organizations to provide state-of-the-art treatment. Register.

Joint Commission Resources

**JCR products available to help navigate CMS requirements**

The following products are currently available from Joint Commission Resources:

- **Joint Commission and CMS Crosswalk** — For those who use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes to meet the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoPs), this product offers a side-by-side comparison of current Medicare hospital CoPs to the applicable 2015 Joint Commission elements of performance (EPs). This guide can help simplify compliance activities and ensure alignment with both Medicare CoPs and Joint Commission standards.

- **CMSAccess®** — A convenient, all-in-one portal, with the latest information about Medicare certification, requirements and survey methodology for both accredited and non-accredited hospitals.

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