Facts about Joint Commission Advisory Groups

The Joint Commission relies on a variety of advisory groups in its continuous effort to improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public. These groups provide feedback to help The Joint Commission develop and revise standards, policies and procedures that support performance improvement in healthcare organizations. Members of The Joint Commission’s Board of Commissioners, who provide policy leadership and oversight, also serve as liaisons to some of the advisory groups. In addition, The Joint Commission uses task forces or expert panels on an ad hoc basis to provide input on important initiatives requiring intensive, short-term attention.

Advisory Councils — Members are representatives of organizations accredited or certified in the specific programs. The Program Advisory Councils provide advice on 1) improving the value of the accreditation or certification program, 2) new products, 3) standards or survey or review process changes, and 4) environmental influences. Their advice complements feedback received from the Professional and Technical Advisory Committees.

- **Ambulatory Advisory Councils** — The two councils are made up of providers of ambulatory surgery and medical/diagnostic services. Contact Michael Kulczycki, mkulczycki@jointcommission.org
- **Behavioral Advisory Councils** — The five councils are made up of providers of mental health, addictions, eating disorders, children/youth services and opioid treatment programs. Contact Tracy Collander, tcollander@jointcommission.org
- **Disease-Specific Care Advisory Council** — Contact Jean Range, jrange@jointcommission.org
- **Health Care Staffing Advisory Council** — Contact Michele Sacco, msacco@jointcommission.org
- **Home Care Advisory Council** — The council is made up of providers of home health, home medical equipment, hospice and pharmacy services. Contact Margherita Labson, mlabson@jointcommission.org
- **Laboratory Advisory Council** — Contact Chad Larson, clarson@jointcommission.org
- **Nursing Care Center Council** — Contact Gina Zimmermann, gzimmermann@jointcommission.org

**Committee on Healthcare Safety** — Provides advice to The Joint Commission regarding standards and survey procedures relating to the physical environment of patient care. The committee members are experts in safety, security, hazardous materials and waste, fire safety, emergency management, medical equipment or building utility systems. Three seats are reserved for representatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association. Contact John Fishbeck, jfishbeck@jointcommission.org

**Health Systems Corporate Liaisons** — Provides advice to The Joint Commission on issues related to the accreditation process. These individuals, mostly clinicians, represent approximately 40 healthcare systems of various sizes and types, and more than 1,500 hospitals nationwide. The group has three face-to-face meetings each year, with additional meetings by conference call. Contact Gail Weinberger, gweinberger@jointcommission.org

**Liaison Network** — Improves communications with healthcare professional groups. The Liaison Network includes approximately 172 professional organizations and ensures that The Joint Commission maintains and strengthens the relationships between The Joint Commission and these organizations. It also serves as a means for soliciting input on key Joint Commission initiatives. Contact Janet Pimentel, jpimentel@jointcommission.org

**Nursing Advisory Council** — The 28-member council meets three times a year to advise The Joint Commission on present and evolving nursing- and patient care-related issues that impact healthcare quality and patient safety; share with their perspectives on Joint Commission initiatives that may impact the nursing profession and patient care; and identify ways to optimize the effects of The Joint Commission’s standards and accreditation process changes relative to nursing and patient care. The Council is chaired by The Joint Commission’s At-Large Nursing Representative to the Board of Commissioners and also includes an additional member of the Board serving in a liaison role. Contact Kim Andersen, kandersen@jointcommission.org
Patient and Family Advisory Council — Counsels The Joint Commission on healthcare issues of concern to patients, their families, and the public and suggests how The Joint Commission can best address these issues through leveraging its quality improvement requirements. The six members represent the interests of patients, their families, healthcare consumers, and the public with respect to improving the quality and safety of healthcare. One Joint Commission Board member serves as a liaison. Contact Dawn Glossa, dglossa@jointcommission.org.

Patient Safety Advisory Group — Advises The Joint Commission enterprise about patient safety topics which can be addressed through a range of interventions. These may include issuing a Sentinel Event Alert, the development of standards, National Patient Safety Goals, performance measures, education or other publications, or referral to The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare. Contact Ana McKee, M.D., amckee@jointcommission.org

Performance Measurement Technical Advisory Panels — Advisory panels are convened to oversee and guide the identification, specification and testing of candidate measures sets for use in accreditation and certification. Each panel comprises multi-disciplinary experts with expertise appropriate to the measure set focus. Panel members have included physicians, nurses, pharmacists, state hospital representatives, purchasers, consumers and experts in performance measurement. The panels develop a measurement framework to establish the domains and key aspects of care to be addressed by the measure set and serve as a guide through the measure identification process. Using the measurement framework, the panels recommend measures which will potentially comprise the sets. Contact Ann Watt, awatt@jointcommission.org

Professional and Technical Advisory Committees (PTACs) — PTACs were created to advise each accreditation program on proposed standards changes. Members of the six PTACs include professionals from each respective field who represent national associations as well as advocates. Each PTAC is composed primarily of individuals nominated by selected professional associations. The majority of the PTACs have public or consumer group representation.

- Ambulatory PTAC — Contact Michael Kulczycki, mkulczycki@jointcommission.org
- Behavioral PTAC — Contact Tracy Collander, tcollander@jointcommission.org
- Home Care PTAC — Contact Margherita Labson, mlabson@jointcommission.org
- Hospital PTAC — Contact Jeff Conway, jconway@jointcommission.org
- Laboratory PTAC — Contact Chad Larson, clarson@jointcommission.org
- Nursing Care Center — PTAC Contact Gina Zimmermann, gzimmermann@jointcommission.org