In this issue

Revised: Ambulatory Care eligibility, licensed independent practitioner requirements

CDC: More work needed to combat healthcare-associated infections

New on the web

Accreditation

Revised: Ambulatory Care eligibility, licensed independent practitioner requirements

For organizations accredited under the Ambulatory Care accreditation program, revisions have been made to the eligibility requirements that are effective immediately for all organizations seeking accreditation for the first time, and effective July 1, 2014, for organizations seeking reaccreditation. Revisions include:

- Instead of only “when appropriate,” those who review the quality of an organization’s care, treatment, or services now must include clinicians who have knowledge of the type of care, treatment, or services provided.

- The minimum number of patients or volume of services required for organizations to be eligible for survey now applies to both organizations seeking accreditation for the first time and to organizations seeking reaccreditation.

- The minimum number of patients/volume of services has increased from three patients served with one active at the time of survey, to 10 patients served with two active at the time of survey.

- In addition, tests, treatments, and interventions must now be authorized by a licensed independent practitioner in accordance with state and federal requirements.

These revisions are the result of a comprehensive review of survey eligibility criteria in all Joint Commission accreditation programs. (The eligibility criteria for the ambulatory care program are the first to be revised.) The review ensures that the eligibility criteria for each program are current, relevant, and appropriate for organizations seeking accreditation and reaccreditation. As a result, several new questions have been added to the E-App (electronic application) that require applicants to make certain attestations regarding their services and policies. The revised eligibility criteria will be published in the spring 2014 Edition® update and the 2014 Update 1 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care. (Contact: Gail Weinberger, gweinberger@jointcommission.org)

Resources

CDC: More work needed to combat healthcare-associated infections

On March 26, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released two reports – Multistate Point-Prevalence Survey of Health Care-Associated Infections and the National and State Healthcare-associated Infection Progress Report – showing that although progress has been made to eliminate healthcare-associated infections, more work is needed to improve patient safety. On any given day, approximately one in 25 U.S. patients has at least one infection contracted during the course of their hospital care, adding up to about 722,000 infections in 2011. For more information, read the CDC news release. In addition, The Joint Commission website has an HAI Portal offering free resources and information related to healthcare-associated infections.

New on the web

- Blog posts:
  - Leadership Blog: How to reach the goal of zero patients harmed.
    Joint Commission President and CEO Dr. Mark Chassin outlines the steps health care organizations can take to achieve this goal.

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