Executive Director

Welcome to the new InTouch newsletter, formerly called LTC Update. We chose “InTouch” for the name because we want to keep in touch with our customers and because the name better reflects the goals of the reinvented Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Accreditation program and the Rehabilitation and Advanced Care Certification option launched this year.

While we’ve received great feedback from providers, referral sources, and payers about the new approach to the accreditation of nursing homes; we’ve also heard that the names of the accreditation program and certification option don’t adequately capture the full scope of services being offered in the long term care industry. In addition, The Joint Commission is working to further expand the certification offerings (memory care is planned for 2014), and we want to make sure that this certification option, and any other new ones, fit under the accreditation program name.

Because of this input, we have decided to change the names of the accreditation program and certification option. The current foundational (core) standards will not change, although we will be introducing new standards for memory care in the future. To accommodate the name changes, we will begin updating the e-App and other IT systems and processes. You can expect to see an official announcement of the new names in Perspectives in the first quarter of 2014. Until then, we’d love to hear about your experiences with the new accreditation and certification. Send your thoughts to us at nar@jointcommission.org.

Gina Zimmermann, M.S.

Reinvented accreditation program and certification option now available

Customers should be pleased with the enhancements offered by the reinvented Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Accreditation program and the Rehabilitation and Advanced Care Certification option that became available July 1, says Gina Zimmermann, executive director, Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Accreditation program. “We worked hard to make sure that the revamped standards focus on the care processes that contribute to improved outcomes for patients and residents,” she says. “Many standards were removed that were redundant or didn’t relate specifically to improving care. New standards were added to address person- and resident-centered care, and the cultural transformation away from institutionalized care that is occurring within the industry.”

The first certification option provides a whole new level of recognition for organizations offering more extensive, post-acute, rehabilitation services, says Zimmermann. “Certification allows organizations to validate and better distinguish the caliber of their rehabilitation and advanced care capabilities to hospital and health system networks, Accountable care organizations, payers, other care providers, and to the public. Organizations will be required to meet the accreditation requirements in order to seek the new certification.”

All customers, whether they choose the new certification or not, will find plenty to like in the updated survey process and accreditation standards tools, Zimmermann notes. “Surveys will include additional time for patient and system tracers to better identify potential risk areas as well as high performing areas. Certification surveys will also include a ‘transitions of care’ session to explore how the organization helps patients transition to a new setting. In addition, the accreditation manual has been redesigned as a ‘workbook;’ it includes additional features to support overall performance improvement to help prepare for survey activities.”

For more information about the reinvented accreditation program and new certification option, contact the Business Development team at 630-792-5020.

2013 NAR standards: Available via E-dition, extranet and website

The 2013 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers (CAMNAR) will not be released in printed form due to the forthcoming publication of the 2014 manual. Instead, to facilitate access, the 2013 standards are available via the E-dition on The Joint Commission Connect™ extranet site, and on The Joint Commission website (available on the website only until November 30, 2013). Customers can print the standards from any of these locations. In addition, the 2013 Update to the standards will be available in the E-dition in November. Questions about the manual should be directed to your account executive at 630-792-3007, or to Business Development at 630-792-5020.
Milestones for customers transitioning to the new accreditation and certification

With the launch of the reinvented Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Accreditation program and the new Rehabilitation and Advanced Care Certification option on July 1, 2013, accredited long term care organizations have a number of choices to make. The table below provides guidelines on what to expect, depending on your current accreditation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional LTC accreditation</th>
<th>Medicare/Medicaid accreditation (LT2)</th>
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<td>July 1, 2013:</td>
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<td>• Organizations are expected to be in full compliance with the reinvented “core” standards. Core standards are the foundational requirements that apply to long term care organizations undergoing survey.</td>
<td>• Organizations due for survey between July 1 and December 31, 2013, can choose to be surveyed under the reinvented “core” standards or existing LT2 standards. Core standards are the foundational requirements that apply to long term care organizations undergoing the traditional full survey.</td>
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<td>• Organizations may choose to undergo a survey for the new certification option. To achieve certification, organizations need to comply with the core standards, plus the certification standards.</td>
<td>• To achieve the specialty certification, organizations need to comply with the core standards, plus the certification standards.</td>
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<td>• The Focused Standards Assessment (FSA) tool is available. The FSA tool displays the standards associated with the core long term care standards effective with the 2013 mid-year standards update. Organizations are not required to make FSA submissions in 2013.</td>
<td>• Organizations have access to the Intracycle Monitoring (ICM) process and the Focused Standards Assessment (FSA) tool. The ICM and FSA help organizations with their continuous compliance efforts and provide guidance on the new standards and requirements.</td>
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<td>January 1, 2014: FSA submission required at approximately 12 and 24 months after the organization’s triennial survey.</td>
<td>January 1, 2014: Organizations will not be able to choose the LT2 option after this date. Organizations must be in compliance with the reinvented core standards at the time of the triennial survey.</td>
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<td>December 31, 2016: The LT2 designation officially expires.</td>
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Accredited nursing homes receive awards

Congratulations to a dozen Joint Commission accredited nursing homes that earned an American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living silver or bronze achievement in the 2013 AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award program.


Bronze awardees: Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Worcester, Mass.; Royal Cape Cod Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Buzzards Bay, Mass.; Royal Taber Street Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, New, Bedford, Mass.; Desert Cove Nursing Center, Chandler, Ariz.; Life Care Center of Evergreen, Evergreen, Colo.; Potomac Valley Nursing Facilities Inc., Rockville, Md.; Special Tree NeuroCare Center, Romulus, Mich.; Life Care Center of Crossville, Crossville, Tenn.

Take note...

Comment on proposed memory care standards

The deadline is October 16 to comment on the proposed requirements for memory care certification.

See you there in 2013!

Joint Commission staff will be at the following meetings:
• American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, Oct. 6-9, Phoenix, Ariz.
• LeadingAge, Oct. 28-30, Dallas, Texas
• Texas Health Care Association, November 4-7, Austin, Texas
• California Association of Health Facilities, Nov. 11-12, Palm Springs, Calif.
• Massachusetts Senior Care Association., Nov. 14, Worcester, Mass.
• American College of Health Care Administrators, Nov. 15-17, San Diego, Calif.

Reinvention FAQs

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions about the reinvention of the Long Term Care Accreditation program.

Free webinar replays

Webinar replays provide tips and information for your staff.
• The Joint Commission reinvents its Long Term Care Accreditation Program – What this means for nursing homes
• New ways to boost your position in the market
• Accreditation and specialty certification to grow your business

Tell us what you think about InTouch

A readership survey for InTouch is open until Friday, October 25.

Contact us

Existing customers
(630) 792-3007
Prospective customers
(630) 792-5020