**Featured Physicians:**
Elizabeth Berger, M.D., and Julia Berian, M.D.

**American College of Surgeons Clinical Scholars-in-Residence,**
**The Joint Commission Patient Safety Fellowship Program**

The Joint Commission's fellowship program is a residential immersion program with the goals to: 1) develop health care leaders with the drive, knowledge, skills and experience to spread improvement in the United States and globally; and 2) build capability and competence within health care organizations that aspire for higher levels of performance improvement. It is the hope of The Joint Commission that the fellowship alumni will

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**Headlines**

**Registration now open for CMO Academy**
You won't want to miss this new offering developed specifically for CMOs by The Joint Commission and the American Association for Physician Leadership®. The nine courses focus on leadership, quality, law, governance, finance, communication and critical objectives established by The Joint Commission. CME credit is available. [Register](#)

**Journal articles highlight improving hand hygiene compliance to prevent HAIs**
The January 2015 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* includes [two articles and an editorial on hand hygiene compliance](#), which reduces rates of healthcare-associated infections in hospitals but has proven difficult to improve on a sustained basis. The articles are written by Joint Commission President and CEO Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., and co-authors. The editorial - by Peter Pronovost, M.D., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore - emphasizes the importance of managers and leaders championing quality improvement processes in their health care organizations. *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* is a monthly peer-reviewed publication available by subscription.
go on to lead organizational, national, and international work to improve care for patients and their families.

In December 2014, Drs. Elizabeth Berger and Julia Berian, American College of Surgeons Clinical Scholars-in-Residence, attended Yellow Belt training, part of The Joint Commission's Robust Process Improvement (RPI) curriculum. Physician Leader Monthly interviewed them about their experience.

Read the full interview

Joint Commission Physician Leader Forum to be held in April
In April, The Joint Commission will host a Physician Leader Forum, an invitation-only event. Here's what other participants have said about their experience at the Forum:

"Listening to Dr. Chassin's (Joint Commission president and CEO) talk was incredible. I'm going to ... find out how we get started on that journey and build up RPI (Robust Process Improvement) ... It gets back to, what's that spark, what's that first thing when we look to the future and be inspired ... Who wouldn't want to take that journey? I think it's been an inspirational day."
- Chad S. Kessler, M.D., M.H.P.E., deputy chief of staff, Durham VA Medical Center, North Carolina

"I think when you get into a Forum where you actually meet your peers from different parts of the country, you really learn a lot about what they're doing, some of the best practices that they're using to improve patient safety and quality. I think that's definitely an added value of this event."
- Amir K. Jaffer, M.D., M.B.A., associate chief medical officer, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago

Suspension of data collection for performance measure SCIP-Inf-4
Data collection and reporting for the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP)-Inf-4 measure, Cardiac Surgery Patients With Controlled Postoperative Blood Glucose, is suspended effective immediately with July 1, 2014 discharges. Routine evaluation of the measure determined that it does not reflect current clinical guidelines, and there are concerns that it may adversely affect the way clinicians and hospitals provide care. The duration of the suspension has not been determined. Read more, including a table highlighting the changes.

Field review: Proposed revisions to existing requirements for the Nursing Care Center Program, available until February 26.

Alert! FDA recalls Wallcur's Practi-IV solutions bags
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting health care professionals not to use Wallcur, LLC, simulated intravenous (IV) products. These products are not sterile and should not be injected into humans or animals. Wallcur's simulated IV saline solution, Practi-0.9% sodium chloride solution, was shipped to medical clinics, surgical centers, and urgent care facilities in numerous states. So far, more than 40 patients have received infusions of the simulated saline products, and many adverse events have been reported including fever, chills, tremors and headache. Some patients were hospitalized, and one death may be associated with the use of these products. Adverse events have been reported in seven states: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, New York and North Carolina.

Resources

Statement clarifies Sentinel Event Policy in severe
maternal morbidity cases
A joint statement released last week by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, The Joint Commission, and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, clarifies the definition of severe maternal morbidity as applied in The Joint Commission's recently revised Sentinel Event Policy. Read more.

News

The HAC no one wants to talk about | HealthLeaders Media

Surgeons should play leading role in Safety Leadership Rounds | ACS Bulletin

Joint Commission launches infection prevention and HAI portal | Infection Control Today


Quick Safety: Issue Nine, January 2015: Preventing delays in treatment

New Standards BoosterPak™: Credentialing & Privileging in Non-Hospital Settings, for ambulatory care, office-based surgery, nursing care center and behavioral health care organizations.

ECRI Institute releases 2015 Top 10 Hospital C-Suite Watch List: Describes technologies and infrastructure issues expected to affect hospitals during the next 12 to 18 months, including disinfection robots, 3-D biologic printing, anti-obesity devices, and post-discharge clinics. Download the free guide.

Online course: Ebola Preparedness: Infection Control, Protecting Staff, and Safely and Effectively Managing Contagious Patients

Emergency Management Resources - Vulnerable Populations: Lessons to Learn After Hurricane Sandy Significantly Impacts Kidney Patients

Blogs, Podcasts & Webinars

The Impact of Physician Burnout. Alan H. Rosenstein M.D., M.B.A., and Michael R. Privitera M.D., M.S., guest bloggers, discuss the impact that physician burnout has on patient care.

It's Time to Solve the Long Standing Environment of Care Issues. Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S., chief operating officer, looks at why environment of care and Life Safety Code® issues are the most often scored non-compliant standards in hospitals.

Ana Pujols McKee, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, The Joint Commission

If you would like to be a featured physician, write for the Joint Commission's Physician blog, or have a topic you'd like to see us cover, please email us!