

The Joint Commission:

Over a century of quality and safety

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1910-1913

- [Ernest Codman, M.D.](#) proposes the “end result system of hospital standardization.”
- American College of Surgeons is founded. The “end result” system becomes an ACS objective.



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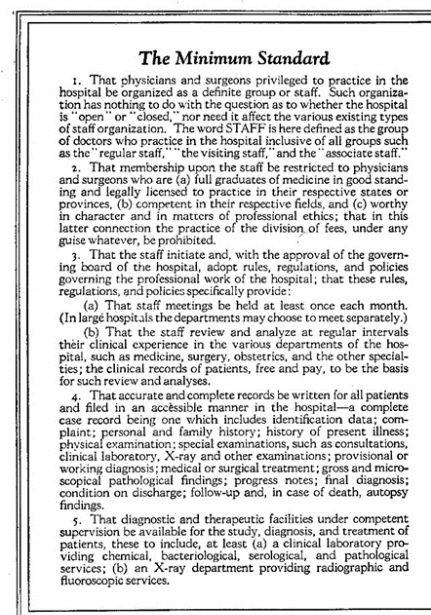
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1917-1918

- The American College of Surgeons develops the *Minimum Standard for Hospitals*. Requirements fill one page.
- The ACS begins on-site inspections of hospitals.

The Minimum Standard of the America College of Surgeons' Hospital Standardization Program



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1926

The first standards manual is printed, consisting of 18 pages.

The American College of Surgeons made the three-story former residence shown opposite, on Chicago's rapidly growing north side, its headquarters in 1920.



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1950-1951

- The American College of Physicians, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, and the Canadian Medical Association join with the ACS as corporate members to create the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH), an independent, not-for-profit organization, in Chicago, Illinois, whose primary purpose is to provide voluntary accreditation.

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1952

- The American College of Surgeons officially transfers its Hospital Standardization Program to JCAH, which begins offering accreditation to hospitals in January 1953.
- Edwin L. Crosby, M.D., becomes the first director of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.



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1953-1959

- JCAH publishes *Standards for Hospital Accreditation*.
- Kenneth Babcock, M.D., becomes director of JCAH.



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1964-1965

- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals begins charging for surveys.
- Congress passes the Social Security Amendments of 1965 with a provision that hospitals accredited by JCAH are “deemed” to be in compliance with most of the Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals and, thus, able to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- John D. Porterfield III, M.D., becomes director of the JCAH.



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1966-1969

- Long term care accreditation begins.
- JCAH establishes four accreditation councils to develop standards and survey accreditation procedures.

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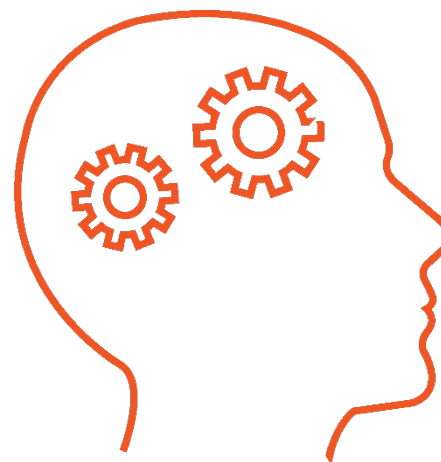
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1970

- The Accreditation Council for Psychiatric Facilities is established and accreditation for psychiatric facilities, substance abuse programs and community mental health programs begins.
- Accreditation for hospitals and long term care facilities is reduced to a maximum of two years from three years.



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1971-1972

- The Accreditation Council for Long Term Care is established.
- The Social Security Act is amended to require that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) validate JCAH findings.
- The first issue of *Perspectives on Accreditation* is published.



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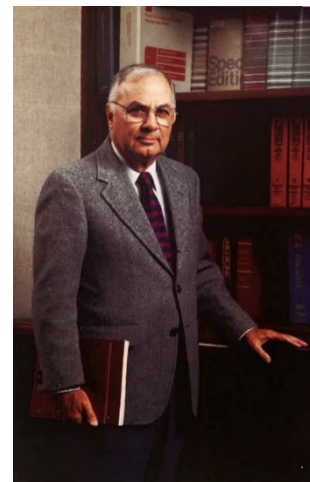
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1975-1977

- The Accreditation Council for Ambulatory Health Care is established and accreditation for ambulatory health care facilities begins.
- John E. Affeldt, M.D., becomes president of the JCAH.



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1978-1979

- JCAH establishes an agreement with the College of American Pathologists to recognize CAP accreditation of a laboratory in a JCAH-accredited hospital in lieu of the Commission's accreditation of the laboratory.
- The American Dental Association (ADA) becomes a JCAH corporate member.
- A Professional and Technical Advisory Committee is established for each accreditation program, and the Accreditation Councils are disbanded.

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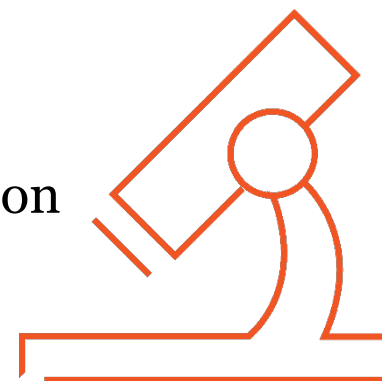
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1982-1983

- The accreditation cycle is changed from two years to three years for hospitals, psychiatric facilities, alcoholism and substance abuse programs, community mental health centers, and long term care organizations.
- Accreditation for hospice care organizations begins. (Folded into the Home Care Accreditation program in 1990.)

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1986

- Quality Healthcare Resources® (QHR), Inc. is formed as a not-for-profit consulting subsidiary of JCAH. (QHR later becomes Joint Commission Resources.)
- Dennis S. O’Leary, M.D., becomes president of the JCAH.



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1987-1989

- The organization name changes to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations to reflect an expanded scope of activities.
- The Agenda for Change is launched, placing the primary emphasis of the accreditation process on actual organization performance.
- Development begins on the Indicator Measurement System[®] (IMSystem[®]), an indicator-based performance monitoring system.
- Accreditation for home care organizations and managed care begins. (Managed care is folded into the Ambulatory Care Accreditation program in 1990).

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Joint Commission
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

1990

The Joint Commission Headquarters and Conference Center opens in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, about 20 miles west of downtown Chicago.

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1992-1993

- The Joint Commission issues a standard requiring all accredited hospitals to have a policy prohibiting smoking in the hospital.
- The number and nature of confirmed substantive complaints filed against accredited facilities and the existence of type I recommendations becomes public information.
- The federal government announces that home health agencies accredited by the Joint Commission after an unannounced survey will be “deemed” to meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation.



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1994

- The first organization-specific performance reports are released to the public.
- A new survey process is implemented that uses a systemwide, cross-department orientation.
- Quality Healthcare Resources, Inc.® and the Joint Commission form Joint Commission International to provide education and consulting services to international clients.

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1995

- The federal government recognizes Joint Commission laboratory accreditation services as meeting the requirements for Clinical Laboratory Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) certification.
- As part of an Action Plan, the Joint Commission launches the Orion Project in Pennsylvania and Arizona as a series of experiments designed to test innovations to improve the delivery of accreditation services.
- Accreditation for freestanding laboratories begins.

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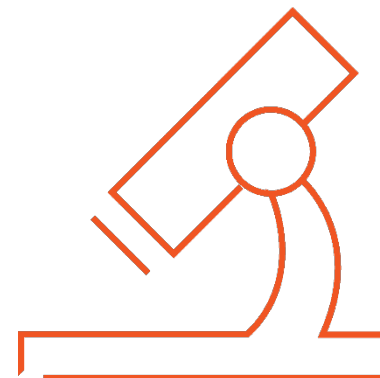
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1996

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announces that ambulatory surgical centers accredited by the Joint Commission will be “deemed” as meeting or exceeding Medicare certification requirements.
- The [Sentinel Event Policy](#) is established.
- The Joint Commission launches its website at www.jcaho.org (now www.jointcommission.org).



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1997

- The Joint Commission launches ORYX®: The Next Evolution in Accreditation™.
- Quality Check® becomes available on the Joint Commission website.

The Joint Commission
Quality Check®



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1998

- The Sentinel Event Policy is revised to promote self-reporting of medical errors and encourage health care providers to more closely examine the root causes of these events.
- The Joint Commission publishes the first issue of *[Sentinel Event Alert](#)*.
- Joint Commission Resources, Inc.[™] replaces Quality Healthcare Resources, Inc.[®] Joint Commission International (including accreditation and consulting services) remains a division of this new subsidiary.

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1999

- The Joint Commission’s mission statement is revised to explicitly reference patient safety.
- The Joint Commission establishes a toll free hot line to encourage patients, their families, caregivers, and others to share concerns regarding quality of care issues at accredited health care organizations.

MISSION:

To continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

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2000

- Standards and a survey process for organizations that provide foster care services are established, effective January 1.
- Joint Commission International publishes the first comprehensive set of international quality standards for hospitals and presents its first accreditation award.

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2001

- New pain assessment and management standards go into effect January 1 for hospitals and organizations providing ambulatory care, assisted living, behavioral health care and long term care.
- A new accreditation program for office-based surgery practices is introduced.
- A new accreditation program for critical access hospitals is launched.

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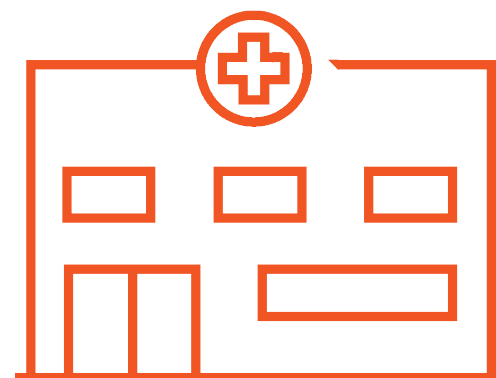
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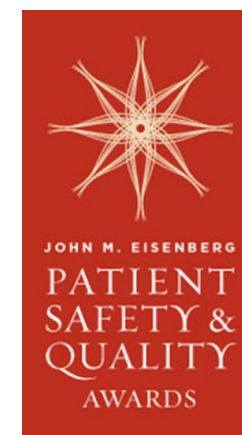
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2002

- The Joint Commission establishes its first annual [National Patient Safety Goals®](#).
- The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services launch [Speak Up™](#).
- The Disease-Specific Care Certification program launches.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announces the granting of deeming authority for critical access hospitals to The Joint Commission.
- The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum announce the establishment of the [John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety Awards](#).

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2003

- The Joint Commission announces a Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery™, effective July 1, 2004.
- The Joint Commission creates The Gold Seal of Approval® that is displayed on all certificates of accreditation.
- The Joint Commission develops a Primary Stroke Care Certification program with the American Stroke Association, providing the first nationwide certification program to evaluate stroke care provided by hospitals.



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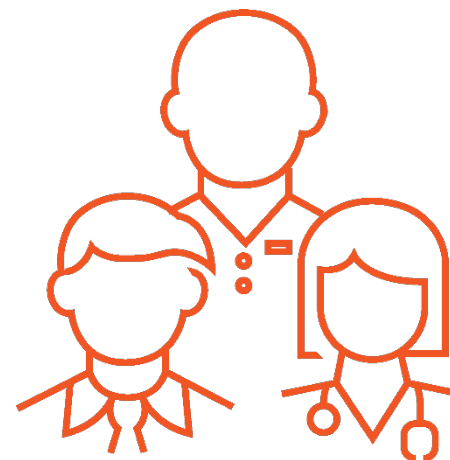
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2004

- The new accreditation process, Shared Visions-New Pathways, is launched January 1, to focus on care processes and organizational systems critical to the safety and quality of patient care.
- The Health Care Staffing Services Certification program launches.
- New certification programs for Lung Volume Reduction Surgery and Left Ventricular Assist Devices are developed.



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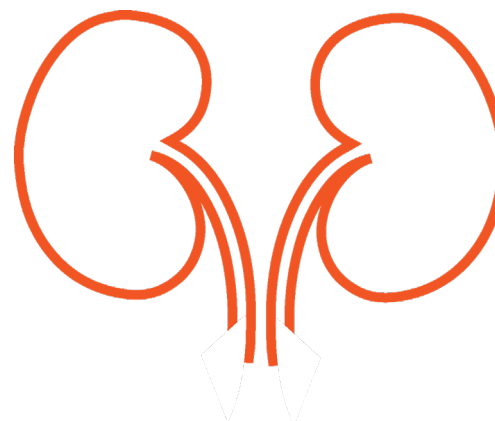
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2005

- Life safety code specialists are added to the Joint Commission survey team.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) in August designated The Joint Commission and Joint Commission International as WHO Collaborating Centre for Patient Safety Solutions.
- The nation's first certification program for chronic kidney disease management launches.



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2006

- The Joint Commission begins conducting on-site accreditation surveys and certification reviews on an unannounced basis, with certain exceptions.
- An Advanced Inpatient Diabetes Care Certification program is announced.
- The Standards Improvement Initiative launches, with a goal to eliminate non-essential standards and to ensure that the remaining standards are understandable and relevant to the care setting to which they apply.

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- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations shortens its name to The Joint Commission.
- Joint Commission International announces a cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China.
- The Ventricular Assist Device Certification Program launches for hospitals that perform VAD surgery as destination therapy.
- A Disease-Specific Care Certification Program for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease management launches.

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2008

- Mark R. Chassin, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., becomes president of The Joint Commission.
- Quality Check expands to include Joint Commission certified programs and organizations earning Health Care Staffing Services Certification.
- The Joint Commission and other health care leaders join together to develop the *Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare- Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals*.
- The E-dition, the first ever electronic version of Joint Commission accreditation manuals, is released.

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2009

- The Joint Commission, with the American Heart Association, announces the Disease Specific Care Certification Program in Heart Failure.
- Joint Commission International and the Korean Hospital Association sign a Memorandum of Understanding to establish programs to improve health care services in South Korea.
- The Joint Commission announces a new [enterprise-wide vision statement and a refreshed mission statement](#).
- The Joint Commission launches its [Center for Transforming Healthcare](#).

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2010

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services names The Joint Commission a designated accreditor of advanced diagnostic imaging centers.
- The Joint Commission announces its plan to categorize its performance measures into accountability and non-accountability measures.
- The Center for Transforming Healthcare launches the [Targeted Solutions Tool® \(TST®\)](#). The first set of targeted solutions is for improving hand hygiene.

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2011

- The Primary Care Medical Home option for accredited ambulatory care organizations becomes available.
- The Advanced Certification in Palliative Care program launches.

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2012

- The Center for Transforming Healthcare releases its Targeted Solutions Tool® (TST®) for Safe Surgery.
- Joint Commission International, the South African-based Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa, and the PharmAccess Foundation of the Netherlands announce an agreement to establish the SafeCare Foundation.

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2012

- The Center for Transforming Healthcare releases the [Hand-off Communications Targeted Solutions Tool® \(TST®\)](#).
- The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association /American Stroke Association announce the launch of the Disease-Specific Care Advanced Certification Program for Comprehensive Stroke Centers.



**The Joint
Commission®**



**American Heart
Association®
American Stroke
Association®**

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

Meets standards for

Comprehensive Stroke Center

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2012

- Joint Commission Resources launches the [Certified Joint Commission Professional \(CJCP™\) program](#).
- The Center for Transforming Healthcare and the South Carolina Hospital Association announce the South Carolina Safe Care Commitment to improve patient safety by using high reliability strategies that have been proven effective in other industries.



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2013

- The Joint Commission debuts its new Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Accreditation program, and for the first time offers a Rehabilitation and Advanced Care Certification option.
- The Joint Commission begins offering a Primary Care Medical Home Certification option for accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals.

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2014

- The Nursing Care Center Accreditation program begins offering Memory Care Certification.
- An innovative online educational tool, *“Applying High Reliability Principles to the Prevention and Control of Infections in Long Term Care,”* is released.
- A new “Patient Safety Systems” chapter is published in the 2015 *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*.



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2015

- The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association launch a Disease-Specific Care Advanced Certification Program for Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals.



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2015

- An [Integrated Care Certification](#) option – for hospital and ambulatory care settings – focuses on helping improve care coordination across the continuum of care.
- [Perinatal Care Certification](#) launched, covering labor through postpartum care in order to improve and maintain the health of newborns and their mothers.



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2015

- The Center for Transforming Healthcare released its [Targeted Solutions Tool® \(TST®\)](#) for preventing hospital inpatient falls and falls with injury.
- The Center released [ORO® 2.0](#), an online high reliability assessment and resource library designed to assist hospital leaders with determining their organization's level of maturity in multiple components of high reliability and striving for the goal of zero preventable harm.

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ORO[®] 2.0

High Reliability Organizational Assessment and Resources

2015

- Ambulatory Care Accreditation was awarded in March to Federal Occupational Health (FOH), the largest provider of occupational health services in the federal government.



**FEDERAL
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH**

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2016

- Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement launched for hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.
- Applications were accepted for Patient Blood Management Certification, an evidence-based approach to optimizing care of patients who might need blood transfusion.



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2016

- The innovative [Pioneers in Quality](#) program launched to provide education and support for hospitals as they strive to meet the growing requirements for electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs).
- The industry's first [Community-Based Palliative Care \(CBPC\) Certification](#) launched for home health and hospices that provide palliative care services in the patient's place of residence.

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2016

- The Joint Commission received deeming authority for California clinical laboratories from the California Department of Public Health's Laboratory Field Services (LFS).
- New behavioral health care standards became effective to better address the care, treatment or services of outpatient or residential eating disorders programs at Joint Commission-accredited behavioral health care organizations.
- An inaugural Health Equity Forum was convened by The Joint Commission and American Hospital Association.



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2017

- In January, Elsevier, a world-leading provider of scientific, technical and medical information products and services, began publishing [The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety](#) (JQPS).
- [Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification](#) was introduced to recognize hospitals that demonstrate excellence in cardiac care.



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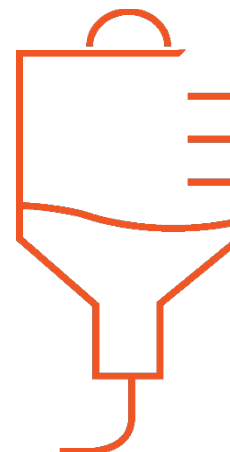
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2017

- Medication Compounding Certification launched in February to support compliance with enhanced, strengthened regulations developed by many state legislatures and boards of pharmacy across the U.S. in response to patient safety and quality events related to medication compounding.

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2017

- In August, the *Annals of Internal Medicine* published an article, “[Holding Providers Accountable for Health Care Outcomes](#),” suggesting a national critical look is needed on how to assess the validity of outcome measures used by public accountability programs.
- Updated emergency management requirements became effective November 15 to help health care organizations more effectively plan for disasters and coordinate with federal, state, tribal, regional and local emergency preparedness systems.

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2018

- In January, a new Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center certification program is announced by The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.
- In February, stroke center certification is made available to non-accredited hospitals via a collaboration between The Joint Commission and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

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**The Joint
Commission®**



**American Heart
Association®
American Stroke
Association®**

STROKE CERTIFICATION

2018

- Also in February, the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare and Huron begin collaborating to create a series of high reliability strategy workshops.
- In June, accredited hospitals transition to The Joint Commission's new direct data submission platform for reporting calendar year 2017 electronic clinical quality measure data.

 Joint Commission Center
for Transforming Healthcare

High Reliability Solutions & Training



Training engagements and online applications
from the industry's leading quality experts

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2018

- In July, the American Heart Association and The Joint Commission announce a new Advanced Certification for Heart Failure program, the first of multiple, jointly offered cardiac certifications for hospitals.
- Also in July, The Joint Commission announces a new performance measure on unexpected complications in term newborns will be effective Jan. 1, 2019.



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2018

- A study, “Incidence and Method of Suicide in Hospitals in the United States,” in the September issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety provides the first data-driven estimate of the number of suicides in U.S. hospitals.
- The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and The Joint Commission announce in September a collaboration to incorporate AAOS clinical expertise into standards development and performance measurement requirements for Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification.

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2018

- In October, it is announced that the American Heart Association’s Cardiovascular Center of Excellence accreditation will merge with The Joint Commission’s Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification, effective Jan. 1, 2019.
- In November, The Joint Commission releases “Pioneers in Quality™ eCQM Proven Practices Collection: Recognizing Success 2017-2018,” recognizing nine hospitals and health care systems that successfully leveraged electronic clinical quality measures and health information technology to drive quality improvement.

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Pioneers in Quality™ eCQM
Proven Practices Collection:
Recognizing Success 2017-2018



2018

- In December, it is announced that two revised National Patient Safety Goals are effective July 1, 2019, to prevent suicide and improve at-risk patient care at accredited hospitals and behavioral health programs; and to reduce harm associated with anticoagulant therapy at accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals, nursing care centers and medical centers (accredited under the ambulatory health care program).

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2019

- In February, The Joint Commission, working with Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC), selected six international quality improvement projects to receive funding as part of a two-year grant to improve antimicrobial stewardship in the Asia-Pacific region.

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2019

- The American Heart Association and The Joint Commission announced in March that they developed two new hospital certification programs to improve the systems of care for heart attack patients and save more lives from cardiovascular disease.



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2019

- In May, The Joint Commission expanded its quality measure program capabilities to provide accredited hospitals with year-round, real-time access to quality measures via its Direct Data Submission Platform. The platform increases value and reduces burden for Joint Commission-accredited hospitals.



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2019

- New, revised antimicrobial stewardship requirements were introduced in June for ambulatory health care organizations, to be effective Jan. 1, 2020.



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2019

- In August, Joint Commission Resources introduced its Tracers with AMP Analytics Reporting Tool, a cloud-based software platform that helps organizations assess quality of care, levels of compliance, and identify areas of vulnerability in their organizations.
- Also in August, a new survey from the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare found as many as 1.98 million health care professionals don't feel they have the resources they need to help their organization reach the industry goal of “zero harm”.

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LEADING
the way to
ZERO™

2019

- In September, JCI Accreditation (Beijing) Co. Ltd. (JCIA China) gained approval from Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA), of being qualified to provide service certification by the sector of health care and social welfare in mainland China.

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2019

- In November, The Joint Commission recognizes 25 U.S. hospitals and health systems for electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) advancements in its 2019 Proven Practices Collection.
- In December, The Joint Commission introduced new and revised standards, effective July 1, 2020, for behavioral health care organizations that treat substance use disorders.



Pioneers in Quality™:
Proven Practices Collection
Recognizing Success 2019



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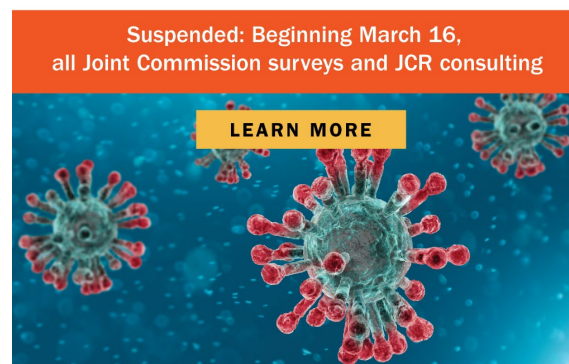
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2020

- In February, The Joint Commission achieved initial deeming authority from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for home infusion therapy, effective Dec. 15, 2019 to Dec. 15, 2023.
- As of March 16, The Joint Commission suspends all regular, on-site surveys of hospitals and other health care organizations to allow health care organizations and professionals to focus on preparing and caring for patients with COVID-19.

What your organization needs to know about the coronavirus.

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2020

- In March, The Joint Commission issued a statement supporting the use of standard face masks and/or respirators provided from home when health care organizations cannot provide access to protective equipment that is commensurate with the risk health care workers are exposed to amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In September, The Joint Commission was selected to provide Laboratory Accreditation Program services for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

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2020

- Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President Ana Pujols McKee, MD, accepted an additional appointment as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, following a summer of demands for societal change and disparate COVID-19 deaths rates and outcomes for people of color.
- The Joint Commission conducted an online questionnaire among health care organizations to learn about their needs in the pandemic environment.



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2021

- In January, The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources announced a new data transparency initiative – DASH™ (Data Analytics for Safe Healthcare). The initiative offers three business intelligence tools in the form of dashboards and performance improvement resources to power customers' performance improvement efforts on their journey to zero harm.

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2021

- In February, The Joint Commission releases *Sentinel Event Alert 62*, “Voices from the pandemic: Health care workers in the midst of crisis.”
- In March, The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente establish The Bernard J. Tyson Award for Excellence in Pursuing Health Care Equity to recognize health care organizations and their partners that lead initiatives that achieve a measurable, sustained reduction in one or more health care disparities.

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**The Bernard J. Tyson
National Award for
Excellence in Pursuit
of Healthcare Equity**

2021

- In May, The Joint Commission launched a new accreditation program to help assisted living organizations deliver consistent and reliable care for residents.
- In June, The Joint Commission and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) announced a new collaboration to help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in the U.S. through a new Maternal Levels of Care Verification Program.



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2021

- In September, The Joint Commission announced the appointment of Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin to lead The Joint Commission as its next President and CEO, effective March 1, 2022.
- In October, The Joint Commission and the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare received the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) Silver Award for Excellence.



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2021

- In October, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and The Joint Commission established the Leading Laboratories Recognition Program – a designation that promotes laboratory leadership and helps elevate the visibility and collaborative work of the medical laboratory team among clinical colleagues, hospital leadership and patients.

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