

COVID-19 Webinar for Disease-Specific Care Certification

# Q&A With The Joint Commission

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# Panel

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# Infection Control Practices

# Hierarchical Approach



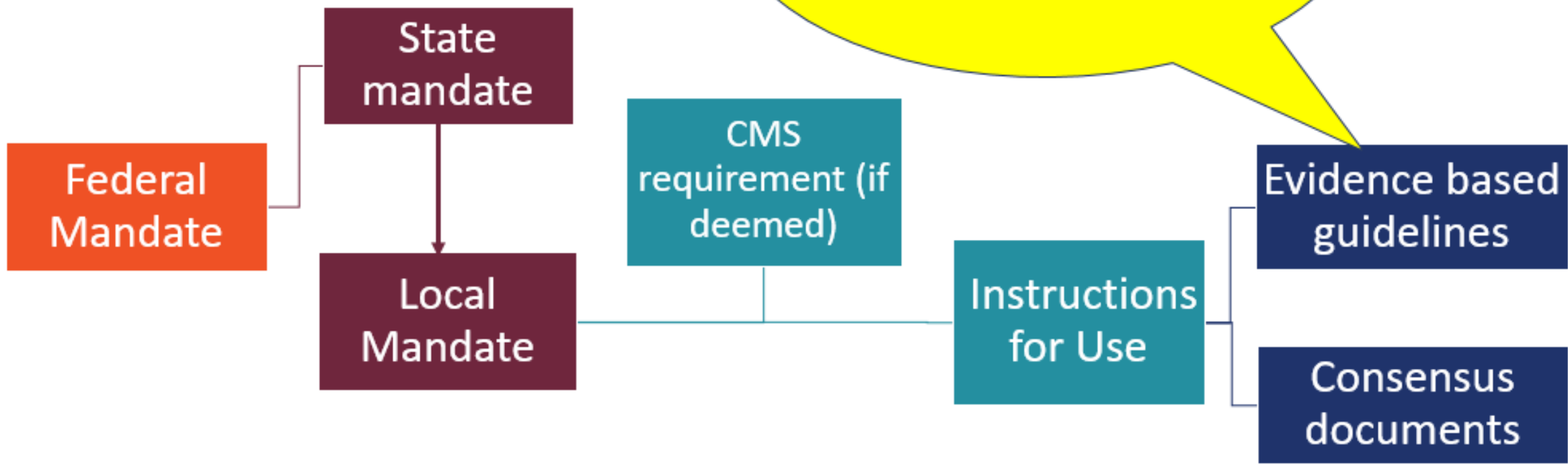
\* For organizations that use Joint Commission accreditation for deemed status purposes or that are required by state regulation or directive, Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and/or Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) should be reviewed for applicable mandatory requirements.

# How to Get Your Answers!

1. Is there a State or Local MANDATE?
  - a) Review Department of Health Information
  - b) Understand ‘required’ vs. ‘recommended’
2. Are you deemed? If so, what is the CMS requirement?
3. What EBG or clinical practice guidelines are you following?

# Deciding IP Practices During COVID 19

**CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic**



# Pre-Submitted Questions

How are people handling visitors?

At which point should hospitals stop visitation?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

What documentation is expected if any, as it relates to visitor screening?



# Pre-Submitted Questions

Is it a requirement that staff be notified if a PUI has a positive COVID?

# PPE Selection: Risk= Resources Needed



COVID-19 Patient?	Aerosol Generating Procedure?	Spread of COVID in community?	Type of PPE recommended
Yes	Yes	Any level	FFR, face/eye protection, gloves, gown
Yes	No	N/A	FFR or mask, face/eye protection, gown, gloves
No/ Unknown	Yes	Moderate or substantial	FFR and face/eye protection, gloves, gown
No/Unknown	Yes	Minimal or limited	FFR or mask *
No/Unknown	No	Moderate or Substantial	Mask and eye protection *
No/ Unknown	No	Minimal or Limited	Mask or cloth covering (source control) *

FFR: Filtering Facepiece Respirator

\* Additional PPE as required by Standard and Transmission based Precautions

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<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are respirators still required when caring for COVID patients?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Should all field staff be wearing N95 masks since we do not know who is infected and should all patients wear some type of mask?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Should hospitals reserve N95s only for positive and suspected cases when there are a number of patients who convert from negative to positive during same admission but remain asymptomatic?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Can an isolation gown and gloves be worn to transport a COVID positive patient in the hallway?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Is The Joint Commission requiring a separate room for donning and one for doffing?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Please speak to the necessary continuation of conservation strategies for PPE.

Resource:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/strategies-optimize-ppe-shortages.html>



# Pre-Submitted Questions

How does The Joint Commission judge the re-use of PPE?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Is anyone using UV cleaning on isolation gowns?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Please speak to the issues around double masking and how The Joint Commission would survey this for healthcare workers vs. the public?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are electrostatic machines being used to disinfect the environment?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

What infection control practices will The Joint Commission expect to see created in response to COVID?

# Recovery and The Joint Commission

# The Joint Commission return to review activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys and certification reviews, we have been advocating for the safety and wellbeing of healthcare workers at the highest levels of policy making.
- We want to assure you that we want to work together to reduce your risk and ours during the onsite review process.

# Your questions

You have had a number of questions about our return to certification reviews:

- How or when will we get a review?
- What will that review process look like, any differences?
- What type of instruction have you provided your reviewers?
- What will the reviewers focus on?



# When and how will review activity resume?

- Survey and review activity has started in low risk areas – includes all programs
- Low risk criteria
  - Number of COVID-19 cases are lower and less impact to organizations
  - the # cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
  - Determination that our staff can travel to that area safely and find appropriate accommodations.
- In addition, your AE will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that reviews are past their due dates, CMS is also aware – we will conduct those reviews when we are able to do so.
- Prioritized initials and past due organizations. We will also be looking for organizations due in the next few months that meet the low risk criteria and are currently ready for review.

# What instructions have been provided to our field staff ?

- Do not travel if you are sick
- Do not travel if you have been in close contact with known or suspected COVID-19 patients
- When traveling they are required to wear a mask/face covering
- **Required to wear a mask on reviews and follow the organizations' guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the reviewer as required by their policy.**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines

# What has changed about the review process?

The review process and its components will remain the same however here are some guidelines for the review:

- Limiting the number of individuals in group sessions
- The use of audio or videoconferencing could be incorporated to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Use of masks will be a routine practice
- Maximize the use of technology to eliminate the number of people needed to sit directly next to an individual for an extended period of time. (For example, screen sharing or projecting medical records)
- Interviewing patients and staff by telephone
- Driving in separate cars to offsite or patient homes

# Review process - continued

- We will NOT Enter at risk or confirmed COVID-19 rooms or homes.
- We will avoid visiting a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients when possible.
- Limited physical review of high risk and aerosol generating procedures
- Consider using a simulation and/or distant review of certain activities/procedures
- Practice social/physical distancing during the review
- Follow “PPE” and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers
- Limiting observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the review

# What will be the focus of review activities?

During the opening conference we will have a discussion with you about the impact of the current pandemic and your organization's response.

- The focus of our review will not be the timeframe of the public health emergency but the current situation within your organization.

# Additional information

- We would ask that you do not provide additional avoid dates due to the difficulty in scheduling surveys – avoid dates already submitted will be honored to the extent we can do so
- Offsite/virtual activity continues to expand
- We will work with you to ensure you are ready and prepared.

# Offsite (Virtual) Review

- **Offsite (virtual) review**– may be scheduled for some organizations who meet eligibility criteria
- Eligible organizations will be contacted via a Qualtrics survey or other outreach from our staff (phone call or email) to confirm their ability to participate
- Offsite event is a combination of:
  - Secure Zoom technology for the survey and facility review
  - Use of a secure SharePoint site for document upload to review pre-review
- A dry run test of technology will be conducted prior to the event

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are 2021 dates for reviews on target or delayed due to 2020 dates delayed?



# Pre-Submitted Questions

Will the hospital contact receive a readiness call prior to the review? What is the timeframe for the review after the call?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are LVRS surveys approved to be virtual?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any plans to review STK-OP-1? This measure holds hospitals accountable for times that include outside agencies i.e. transport companies. Several of the delays are related to the transport agencies.

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there delays in DSC initial application processing or temporary pauses for in-person site reviews?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Will there be any change to volume requirements, given the decrease in non-COVID hospital visits overall?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

At what time should hospitals begin the daily check of the website to see if a survey is to take place? We have stopped checking during this time of suspension.

How do we add additional avoid dates at this time?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Best practices suggest COVID testing be done on all elective cases before surgery. Would any citations be given during DSC reviews in which this is not being routinely done?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

When will in-person DS reviews resume?



# Pre-Submitted Questions

Can we please get specific details on exactly how to prepare for an off-site/virtual review?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you please clarify what timeframe of patient lists should we provide to the reviewers? I understand it needs to be the last 90 days from date of survey. Are the patients excluded from March 2020 to ready date?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you please elaborate on your statement of there not being any penalty for not meeting your ESC around required completion dates?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Considering the COVID situation, how does The Joint Commission plan the recertification reviews for hip and knee? Given the fluctuating circumstances with COVID, will the Advanced Hip and Knee certification be 100% virtual? If so, how would you recommend we prepare for this?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Current operations during PHE allow limited nursing documentation in the medical record (i.e. plan of care). With the DSC, how will reviewers evaluate compliance for patient-specific goals of care?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Have there been any changes in assessment requirements for post-thrombolytic stroke patients?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

How are reviews done during COVID pandemic especially in hard-hit states like New York? Do we expect that these are done remotely and are there potential delays to reviews as it pertains to review window?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

How do we address the possible negative data results for a DSC measure that may be impacted by screening for and/or caring for the large influx of COVID-19 patients?



# Pre-Submitted Questions

How much of a recertification review will be focused on COVID and infection prevention? In the past, the focus has really been on the specific program itself and the basic hospital accreditation items are addressed if needed but not the focus.

# Pre-Submitted Questions

We are in the window for our stroke survey already and wanted to know how much notice we will have.

# Pre-Submitted Questions

I am wondering about the delays related to COVID for imaging, tPA, EVT and how it affects accreditation.

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Interested in what exactly is needed prior to DSC stroke recertification review especially if virtual.

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there a requirement to have COVID specific stroke policies?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Does DSC virtual incur a second survey as for triennials?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Severe Sepsis Septic Shock Measures in relation  
to the viral status of COVID-19

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Suggestions for equipment needed for virtual review. What program are you using for a virtual for IT to set up?



# Pre-Submitted Questions

What additional documentation is advised regarding current medical staff members practicing via telemedicine?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

The Joint Commission will not come if your hospital's COVID rate is above 1, correct? How will this work for a hospital system where The Joint Commission typically surveys each hospital back to back? Will you come individually now?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

What are you expecting from Comprehensive Stroke Centers in regard to their stroke support groups during the pandemic?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

What metrics are used to monitor implementation of clinical practice guidelines for center of excellence for COPD?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

When will certification efforts renew? When payors request updated certification does The Joint Commission have a letter explaining the delay in re-certification that we could share with them?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

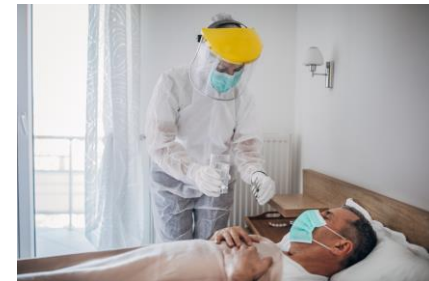
Will annual check in phone calls continue as scheduled during the PHE?

# Pre-Submitted Questions

Will education requirements for PSC be waived for physicians due to the pandemic?

# Thank You

We support your efforts  
in response to the  
COVID-19 pandemic and  
hope to provide helpful  
resources





# COVID-19 resources

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## What Your Organization Needs to Know About the Coronavirus

Trusted Guidance. Trusted Resources.

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# Resources

- COVID Resources

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/>

- Standards Interpretation

- <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/>