



APPROVED: Revisions to Requirements for Organizations Providing Diagnostic Imaging Services

In June 2014, The Joint Commission announced the postponement of the July 2014 implementation of new and revised diagnostic imaging requirements for accredited **hospitals, critical access hospitals, and ambulatory care** organizations that provide diagnostic imaging services, including those ambulatory care organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification (*see* June 2014 *Perspectives*, pages 8 and 11).

The Joint Commission postponed the effective date after receiving feedback from accredited customers and key stakeholders. The feedback raised critical issues within the standards, highlighting complexities that required further research in order to ensure the new standards' efficacy in promoting quality and safety improvement. These critical issues included the following:

- Minimum qualifications for technologists performing computed tomography (CT) exams
- Ongoing education and training for technologists performing CT and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams
- Expectations for medical physicist involvement in annual imaging equipment performance evaluations

- Documentation of radiation dose for CT exams

While The Joint Commission's further research in these areas resulted in revisions to several of these requirements, the requirement that was proposed to address minimum qualifications for technologists performing diagnostic CT exams remains on hold pending additional research.

The standards changes significantly
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raise the bar on quality- and safety-related issues. The revisions incorporate recommendations from imaging experts, professional associations, and accredited organizations on topic areas that must be evaluated to ensure the safe delivery of diagnostic imaging services.

The new and revised elements of performance (EPs), **effective July 1, 2015**, are on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx and will be published in the

E-dition® update in late spring.*

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** For the ambulatory care and hospital programs, the revisions will appear in print when the 2015 Update 1 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals is published in spring 2015. The revisions for the critical access hospital program will appear in print in fall 2015, as this program no longer has a hard copy Subscription Update Service (see November 2014 Perspectives, pages 5 and 6).*