

# Prepublication Requirements



## Revisions to Eliminate Term “Licensed Independent Practitioner”

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online *E-dition*<sup>®</sup>), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical *The Joint Commission Perspectives*<sup>®</sup>. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

**Please note:** Where applicable, this report shows deleted language struckthrough and new language underlined.

### APPLICABLE TO THE NURSING CARE CENTER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective January 1, 2024

#### *Revised Glossary Definitions*

##### clinical staff

~~Individuals such as employees, licensed independent practitioners, contractors, volunteers, or temporary agency personnel~~Staff members who provide or have provided clinical services (such as personal care or medical treatment) to the organization's patients, residents, or individuals served. See also staff.

##### **licensed independent practitioner**

~~An individual permitted by law and by the organization to provide care, treatment, and services without direction or supervision. A licensed independent practitioner operates within the scope of their license, consistent with individually granted clinical privileges. When standards reference the term licensed independent practitioner, this language is not to be construed to limit the authority of a licensed independent practitioner to delegate tasks to other qualified health care personnel (for example, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses) to the extent authorized by state law or a state's regulatory mechanism or federal guidelines and organizational policy.~~

##### **licensed practitioner**

An individual who is licensed and qualified to direct or provide care, treatment, and services in accordance with state law and regulation, applicable federal law and regulation, and organizational policy.

##### physician assistant

An individual who practices medicine with supervision by licensed physicians, providing services ranging from primary medicine to specialized surgical care. The scope of practice is determined by state law, the supervising physician's delegation of responsibilities, the individual's education and experience, and the specialty and setting in which the individual works. ~~When standards reference the term “licensed independent practitioner,” this language is not to be construed to limit the authority of a licensed independent practitioner to delegate tasks to other qualified~~

~~health care personnel (for example, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses) to the extent authorized by state law or a state's regulatory mechanism or federal guidelines and organizational policy.~~

### **practitioner**

~~Any individual who is licensed and qualified to practice a health care profession (for example, physician, nurse, social worker, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, respiratory therapist) and is engaged in the provision of care, treatment, or services. See also licensed independent practitioner.~~

### **provider**

~~A licensed individual or organization that provides health care services outside the accredited organization.~~

~~Note: The term "provider" is a general reference to a person or entity providing services that are not within the oversight and management of the accredited organization.~~

### **staff**

~~As appropriate to their roles and responsibilities, allAll people who provide care, treatment, or services in the organization, including those receiving pay (for example, licensed practitioners; permanent, temporary, and part-time personnel, as well as; contract employees); volunteers; and health profession students. The definition of staff does not include licensed independent practitioners who are not paid staff or who are not contract employees.~~

## ***Additional Revisions Based on Revised Definitions***

### **clinical privileges**

Authorization granted by the appropriate authority (for example, the governing body) to a physician or other licensed practitioner to provide specific care, treatment, or services in the organization within well-defined limits, based on the following factors: license, education, training, experience, competence, health status, and judgment.

### **coordination of care**

The process of coordinating care, treatment, or services provided by a health care organization, including referral to appropriate community resources and liaison with others (such as the individual's physician or other licensed practitioner, other health care organizations, or community services involved in care or services) to meet the ongoing identified needs of individuals, to ensure implementation of the plan of care, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

### **credentialing**

The process of obtaining, verifying, and assessing the qualifications of a physician or other licensed practitioner to provide care or services in or for a health care organization.

### **credentials verification organization (CVO)**

Any organization that provides information on an individual's professional credentials. An organization that bases a decision in part on information obtained from a CVO should have confidence in the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of information. To achieve this level of confidence, the organization should evaluate the agency providing the information initially and then periodically as appropriate. The 10 principles that guide such an evaluation include the following:

1. The agency makes known to the user the data and information it can provide.
2. The agency provides documentation to the user describing how its data collection, information development, and verification process(es) is performed.

3. The user is given sufficient, clear information on database functions, including any limitations of information available from the agency (such as practitioners/individuals not included in the database), the time frame for agency responses to requests for information, and a summary overview of quality control processes related to data integrity, security, transmission accuracy, and technical specifications.
4. The user and agency agree on the format for transmitting credentials information about an individual from the CVO.
5. The user can easily discern what information transmitted by the CVO is from a primary source and what is not.
6. For information transmitted by the agency that can go out of date (for example, licensure, board certification), the CVO provides the date the information was last updated from the primary source.
7. The CVO certifies that the information transmitted to the user accurately represents the information obtained by it.
8. The user can discern whether the information transmitted by the CVO from a primary source is all the primary source information in the CVO's possession pertinent to a given item or, if not, where additional information can be obtained.
9. The user can engage the CVO's quality control processes when necessary to resolve concerns about transmission errors, inconsistencies, or other data issues that may be identified from time to time.
10. The user has a formal arrangement with the CVO for communicating changes in credentialing information.

**entry**

The process by which an individual a patient or resident comes into a setting, including screening and/or assessment by the organization a physician or the other licensed practitioner to determine the capacity of the organization or practitioner to provide the care, treatment, or services required to meet the individual's/patient's or resident's needs.

**informed consent**

Agreement or permission accompanied by full notice about the care, treatment, or service that is the subject of the consent. A patient or resident must be apprised of the nature, risks, and alternatives of a medical procedure or treatment before the physician or other health care professional licensed practitioner begins any such course. After receiving this information, the patient or resident then either consents to or refuses such a procedure or treatment.

**medical staff**

The group of all licensed independent practitioners/physicians and other licensed practitioners privileged through the organized medical staff process that is subject to the medical staff bylaws. This group may include others, such as retired practitioners who no longer practice in the organization but who wish to continue their membership in the group, courtesy staff, scientific staff, and so forth. See also medical staff, organized.

**medication management**

The process an organization uses to provide medication therapy to individuals served by the organization. The components of the medication management process include the following:

- procurement - The task of obtaining selected medications from a source outside the organization. It does not include obtaining a medication from the organization's own pharmacy, which is considered part of the ordering and dispensing processes.
- storage - The task of appropriately maintaining a supply of medications on the organization's premises.
- secure - In locked containers, in a locked room, or under constant surveillance.
- prescribing or ordering - The process of a physician or other licensed independent practitioner or prescriber transmitting a legal order or prescription to an organization, directing the preparing, dispensing, and administration of a specific medication to a specific individual. It does not include requisitions for medication supplies.
- transcribing - The process by which an order from a physician or other licensed independent practitioner is

documented either in writing or electronically.

- preparing - Compounding, manipulating, or in some way getting a medication ready for administration, exactly as ordered by the physician or other licensed independent practitioner.

- dispensing - Providing, furnishing, or otherwise making available a supply of medications to the individual for whom it was ordered (their representative) by a licensed pharmacy according to a specific prescription or medication order, or by a physician or other licensed independent practitioner authorized by law to dispense. Dispensing does not involve providing an individual a dose of medication previously dispensed by the pharmacy.

- administration - The provision of a prescribed and prepared dose of an identified medication to the individual for whom it was ordered to achieve its pharmacological effect. This includes directly introducing the medication into or onto the individual's body.

### **neglect**

The absence of the minimal services or resources required to meet basic needs. Neglect includes withholding or inadequately providing medical care and, consistent with usual care, treatment, or services, food and hydration (without approval from the individual, physician or other licensed practitioner, or surrogate), clothing, or good hygiene. It may also include placing an individual in unsafe or unsupervised conditions. See also abuse.

### **organizational and functional integration**

The degree to which a component of an organization is overseen and managed by the applicant organization.

Organizational integration exists when the applicant organization's governing body, either directly or ultimately, controls budgetary and resource allocation decisions for the component or, where separate corporate entities are involved, there is greater than 50% common governing board membership on the board of the applicant organization and the board of the component.

Functional integration exists when the entity meets at least three of the following eight criteria:

1. The applicant organization and the component use the same process for determining membership of physicians or other licensed independent practitioners in practitioner panels or medical or professional staff and/or use the same process for credentialing and assigning of privileges or clinical responsibilities to physicians or other licensed independent practitioners, and/or share a common organized medical or professional staff between the applicant organization and the component.
2. The applicant organization's human resources function hires and assigns staff at the component and has the authority to terminate staff at the component, to transfer or rotate staff between the applicant organization and the component, and to conduct performance appraisals of the staff who work in the component.
3. The applicant organization's policies and procedures are applicable to the component with few or no exceptions.
4. The applicant organization manages all operations of the component (that is, the component has little or no management authority or autonomy independent of the applicant organization).
5. The component's clinical records are integrated into the applicant organization's clinical record system.
6. The applicant organization applies its performance improvement program to the component and has authority to implement actions intended to improve performance at the component.
7. The applicant organization bills for services provided by the component under the name of the applicant organization.
8. The applicant organization and/or the component portrays to the public that the component is part of the organization through the use of common names or logos; references on letterheads, brochures, telephone book listings, or websites; or representations in other published materials.

### **orientation**

A process used to provide initial training and information while assessing the competence of ~~clinical~~ staff relative to job responsibilities and the organization's mission and goals.

**primary source**

The original source or an approved agent of that source of a specific credential that can verify the accuracy of a qualification reported by ~~an individual~~ a physician or other licensed practitioner. Examples include medical schools, nursing schools, graduate education, state medical boards, federal and state licensing boards, universities, colleges, and community colleges.

**primary source verification**

Verification of ~~an individual~~ a physician's or other licensed practitioner's reported qualifications by the original source or an approved agent of that source. Methods for conducting primary source verification of credentials include direct correspondence, documented telephone verification, secure electronic verification from the original qualification source, or reports from credentials verification organizations (CVOs) that meet Joint Commission requirements. See also credentials verification organization (CVO).

**record**

1. An account compiled by physicians and other health care professionals of a variety of health information, such as assessment findings, treatment details, and progress notes. 2. Data obtained from the records or documentation maintained on a patient or resident in any health care setting (for example, hospital, home care, nursing care center, licensed practitioner office). The record includes automated and paper medical record systems.

**resuscitative services**

Qualified staff ~~and licensed independent practitioners~~, supplies, and processes used to revive an individual.

**safety**

The degree to which the risk of an intervention (for example, use of a drug, or a procedure) and risk in the care environment are reduced for a patient and other persons, including health care ~~practitioners~~ staff. Safety risks may arise from the performance of tasks, from the structure of the physical environment, or from situations beyond the organization's control (such as weather).