Revisions Related to CMS Changes for Hospices

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®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit http://www.jcrinc.com.

Please note: Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO THE HOME CARE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
Effective Immediately

Human Resources (HR) Chapter

HR.01.03.01

Staff are supervised effectively.

Element(s) of Performance for HR.01.03.01

24. For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: If an area of concern is verified by the hospice during the on-site visit with the hospice aide, the hospice conducts a competency evaluation of the hospice aide.

24. For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: If an area of concern is verified by the hospice during the on-site visit with the hospice aide, the hospice conducts, and the hospice aide completes, a competency evaluation of the deficient skills and any related skill(s) that is in the competency evaluation skill requirements. (For more information on the competency evaluation skill requirements, refer to HR.01.06.01, EP 8)

HR.01.06.01

Staff are competent to perform their responsibilities.

Element(s) of Performance for HR.01.06.01

Key: ③ indicates that documentation is required; ④ indicates an identified risk area;
9. For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The supervisor evaluates the following areas by observing a home health or hospice aide's performance of the tasks with a patient or pseudo-patient as part of a simulation:
   - Appropriate and safe techniques in personal hygiene and grooming that include bed, sponge, tub, or shower bath; sink, tub, or bed shampoo; nail and skin care; oral hygiene; toileting and elimination
   - Safe transfer techniques and ambulation
   - Normal range of motion and positioning
   For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The supervisor evaluating the aide must be a registered nurse.

9. For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The supervisor evaluates the following areas by observing a home health or hospice aide's performance of the tasks with a patient or pseudo-patient as part of a simulation:
   - Communication skills, including the ability to read, write, and verbally report clinical information to patients, caregivers, and other staff
   - Reading and recording temperature, pulse, and respirations
   - Appropriate and safe techniques in personal hygiene and grooming that include bed, sponge, tub, or shower bath; sink, tub, or bed shampoo; nail and skin care; oral hygiene; toileting and elimination
   - Safe transfer techniques and ambulation
   - Normal range of motion and positioning
   For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The supervisor evaluating the aide must be a registered nurse.

Key: □ indicates that documentation is required; ▪ indicates an identified risk area;
10. For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization evaluates the following subject areas through written examination, oral examination, or after observation of a home health aide or hospice aide with a patient:
- Communication skills
- Observation, reporting, and documentation of patient status and the care or service furnished
- Observation, reporting, and documentation of patient status and the care or service furnished
- Reading and recording temperature, pulse, and respirations
- Basic infection control procedures
- Basic elements of body functioning and changes in body function that must be reported to an aide’s supervisor
- Maintenance of a clean, safe, and healthy environment
- Recognizing emergencies and initiating necessary emergency procedures
- The physical, emotional, and developmental needs of and ways to work with the populations served by the home health aide or hospice aide, including the need to respect the patient and their privacy and property
- Adequate nutrition and fluid intake
- Any other task that the home health agency or hospice may choose to have the home health aide or hospice aide perform as permitted under state law

10. For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization evaluates the following subject areas through written examination, oral examination, or after observation of a home health aide or hospice aide with a patient or a pseudo-patient during a simulation:
- For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: This includes the ability to read, write, and verbally report clinical information to patients, representatives, and caregivers, as well as to other staff
- Observation, reporting, and documentation of patient status and the care or service furnished
- Basic infection control procedures
- Basic elements of body functioning and changes in body function that must be reported to an aide’s supervisor
- Maintenance of a clean, safe, and healthy environment
- Recognizing emergencies and initiating necessary emergency procedures
- The physical, emotional, and developmental needs of and ways to work with the populations served by the home health aide or hospice aide, including the need to respect the patient and their privacy and property
- Adequate nutrition and fluid intake
- Any other task that the home health agency or hospice may choose to have the home health aide or hospice aide perform as permitted under state law