

Quality and safety

Now available: Free case example on health inequity and implicit bias



A new case example focusing on health inequity and implicit bias is now available for free on The Joint Commission's website.

Case Example #5 follows an African American patient with a history of stroke and other symptoms not being seen in a timely manner and being ignored while awaiting treatment at an emergency room. The example — which is part of a series that illustrates encounters of implicit bias, health inequity and disparity in the provision of health care — highlights strategies that organizations can take to transform its approach to health equity.

The case example aims to ask readers:

- What were the organization's risk points?
- How could this outcome have been prevented?
- How could this outcome have been mitigated?
- Where can the organization improve its processes?

In this issue

- Now available: Free case example on health inequity and implicit bias
- Joint Commission IC Director: Don't wait and see on getting children vaccinated
- Minor revisions made to Advanced COPD Certification program
- JCR launches on-demand Digital Learning Center
- Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

Case Example #5 is available as a downloadable PDF, as are:

- Case Example #1, which focuses on a patient death resulting from failure to rescue.
- Case Example #2, which focuses on a wrong-site surgery situation.
- Case Example #3, which focuses on a suicidal patient who slipped through the cracks.
- Case Example #4, which focuses on a missed diagnosis leading to a delay in treatment for a patient.

[View](#) Case Example #5.

Coronavirus updates

Joint Commission IC Director: Don't wait and see on getting children vaccinated

While the recent news of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorizing use of the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12 to 15 was a step forward in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, it also was met with hesitation by some parents.

In a May 6 poll from the Kaiser Foundation, 25% of parents of children ages 12 to 15 who responded stated that they would “wait and see” how the vaccine was working before getting their children vaccinated, while another 25% stated they would not pursue vaccination for their children.

Joint Commission Infection Prevention and Control Director Sylvia Garcia-Houchin understands the concern from parents, as she is a parent and grandparent herself. But she also urges those parents who may be hesitating to get their children vaccinated to not wait.

Garcia-Houchin made her case in a new On Infection Prevention & Control blog post.

“As someone who has spent an entire career in infection prevention, I have no doubts about the safety of this vaccine for the approved age groups,” she wrote. “The risk benefit analysis is clear. The vaccine protects not only

the recipient but those who are around them who cannot be vaccinated – a key issue if you have children or are the guardian of children under the vaccination age.”

Garcia-Houchins also points out that there is “somewhat of a disconnect” regarding public perception that COVID-19 does not affect children in a severe way. She noted a recent *CBS News* report that “young teens aren’t immune to long-haul COVID and at least five U.S. hospitals opened pediatric long-haul clinics.”

“Although rare, prolonged hospitalization and deaths of children from COVID-19 occur,” she wrote. “It is heartbreaking to see parents on the news talking about their seemingly healthy child succumbing to COVID in just a few days.”

[Read](#) the blog post.

Accreditation and Certification

Minor revisions made to Advanced COPD Certification program

The Joint Commission has approved minor revisions to its Delivering or Facilitating Clinical Care (DSDF) Standard DSDF.3, element of performance (EP) 2 on the assessment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. The revised requirements — applicable to Advanced COPD Certification — will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

The revisions reflect the importance of the patient’s exacerbation history — along with monitoring patient symptoms and exacerbations risks — in COPD assessment and reassessment, as communicated in the latest Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) report, “Global Strategy for the Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.”

[View](#) the prepublication standards. (Contact: Natalya Rosenberg, nrosenberg@jointcommission.org)

Resources

JCR launches on-demand Digital Learning Center

Joint Commission Resources, Inc. (JCR) has launched a new Digital Learning Center (DLC) to provide health care organizations on-demand accreditation and compliance courses and content. The subscription-based virtual learning service integrates JCR’s popular digital content, including:

- Webinars
- Videos
- PolicySource
- Digital newsletters and e-books (digital standards manuals are not included as part of the subscription)

Additionally, the DLC provides exclusive curated content bundles on these critical patient safety and quality topics, such as:

- Environment of Care/Life Safety (EC/LS)
- Infection Prevention and Control (IC)
- Medication Management (MM)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

The dynamic content will be regularly updated to address current hot topics, best practices, and education on new and revised Joint Commission standards. The DLC also includes: Continuing Education (CE) credits and downloadable certificates for all courses; and access to the JCR technical support team for guidance at no additional cost.

“We are excited to provide this cost-effective opportunity for health care organizations to take advantage of our comprehensive digital resources in one centralized location,” said David Qu, MBA, FACHE, CPHQ, vice president, Global Publications, Education, Electronic Products, JCR. “We believe the DLC will help accelerate the training of

health care professionals on Joint Commission standards and survey process updates, as well as on timely patient safety and quality topics.”

The DLC is accessible 24/7 on desktop computers or mobile devices to all staff at a subscribed organization. Its subscription fee is \$4,499 (rolling 12 months) per health care organization. The fee provides substantive cost savings compared to purchasing each resource individually.

[Learn more.](#)

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- **Dateline @ TJC** — [Bernard J. Tyson Award: Calling Organizations Impacting Health Equity](#): In a new award program, The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente aim to recognize organizations that have addressed health care disparities. The Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity will acknowledge health care organizations and their partners that led initiatives that achieved a measurable, sustained reduction in one or more health care disparities, writes Ana Pujols McKee, MD, Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer.
- **Improvement Insights** — [Implementing Tools to Enhance Safety II at a Children’s Hospital](#): In the upcoming July 2021 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, Bartman and colleagues report how they designed and implemented actual tools and methods within their organization to encourage health professionals to practice Safety II in their daily work, writes K. Suresh Gautham, MD, DM, MS, FAAP.
- **Ambulatory Buzz** — [Staff Safety in Ambulatory Surgery Centers](#): There are few areas where precision and accuracy matter more than within an ambulatory surgery center (ASC). It is difficult to identify another location that is under such intense time pressure and scrutiny. Surgical center procedures must be correct and time efficient. When patients enter an ASC, they are likely amid hundreds of thousands of dollars of life saving equipment, medications and instrumentation, writes Elizabeth Even, RN, Associate Director, Standards Interpretation.
- **Quality in Nursing Center Care** — [Join Us for a Virtual Event on the New Assisted Living Community Accreditation Program](#): The Joint Commission is thrilled to invite you to participate in a June 8 virtual event, Distinction in Quality: New Accreditation for Assisted Living Communities, writes Gina Zimmermann, Executive Director, Nursing Care Center and Assisted Living Community Services.

Learn more about [Joint Commission Resources](#)’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.

