

# Joint Commission Online

June 30, 2021

## Accreditation and certification

### New workplace violence prevention requirements



Starting Jan. 1, 2022, new and revised workplace violence prevention requirements will be applicable to all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals.

The new and revised requirements provide a framework to guide hospitals and critical

access hospitals in developing strong workplace violence prevention systems and address the following concepts:

- Defining workplace violence, including a formal definition located in the Glossary.
- Leadership oversight.
- Worksite analysis.
- Developing policies and procedures for the prevention of workplace violence.
- Reporting systems, data collection, and analysis.
- Post-incident strategies.
- Training and education to decrease workplace violence.

[View](#) the prepublication standards.

A [R3 Report](#) also was published explaining the rationale and research behind the new and revised requirements.

### Revisions made to Accreditation Participation Requirements

Effective Jan. 1, 2022, The Joint Commission has approved revisions to its Accreditation Participation Requirements (APR) Standard APR.04.01.01 for its Assisted Living Community, Critical Access Hospital and Hospital accreditation programs.

These revisions include:

- Updates to align with current ORYX requirements.
- A deletion of an element of performance to reduce redundancy.
- Improved language consistency across programs.

[View](#) the prepublication standards.

## Quality and safety

### New collaboration with ACOG aims to address maternal health

The Joint Commission and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) are collaborating to help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in the U.S. through the development of a new Maternal Levels of Care (MLC) Verification Program. It will be available starting Jan. 1, 2022.

The Levels of Maternal Care (LoMC) Obstetric Care Consensus, first published in 2015 by ACOG and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, defines the required minimal capabilities, physical facilities, and medical and support personnel for each level of care, which includes:

- Level I (basic care)
- Level II (specialty care)

### In this issue

- New workplace violence prevention requirements
- Revisions made to Accreditation Participation Requirements
- New collaboration with ACOG aims to address maternal health
- Deadline extended: Bernard J. Tyson National Award application period now closes Aug. 6
- Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
- Coming soon: 4th edition of APIC/JCR Infection Prevention and Control Workbook

- Level III (subspecialty care)
- Level IV (Regional Perinatal Health Care Centers)

Conducted by The Joint Commission, the verification process will involve an on-site comprehensive review of the maternal services available in hospitals/critical access hospitals and a level of maternal care determination.

“Through this collaboration with ACOG, we will be able to further address critical maternal health areas,” said David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP, Executive Vice President, Division of Health Care Quality Evaluation, The Joint Commission. “We are pleased to offer this new verification program at a time when several state legislative and licensing authorities, health systems, and hospitals are exploring levels of care verification to improve the quality and safety of maternal care. We look forward to working closely with ACOG experts to gain additional insight into how to make health care safer for mothers.”

In addition to verification, The Joint Commission and ACOG are considering a certification in obstetric care for health care organizations that meet advanced criteria beyond the level requirements. Through this initiative, the two organizations will combine efforts to improve the quality and safety of obstetric care within communities.

### **Deadline extended: Bernard J. Tyson National Award application period now closes Aug. 6**

The application period has been extended for a new award program from The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente that recognizes health care organizations and their partners that led initiatives that achieved a measurable, sustained reduction in one or more health care disparities.

All types of health care organizations that directly deliver health care and have addressed disparities for any vulnerable population — including but not limited to race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status — may apply for the [Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity](#).

There is no cost to apply, and applications must be submitted by Aug. 6.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their award application describing the implementation of a well-defined intervention that resulted in a measurable, sustained reduction in disparities. Initiatives submitted for consideration must demonstrate measurable improvement.

The award honors the memory of the late Bernard J. Tyson was chairman and chief executive officer of Kaiser Permanente, and he worked tirelessly to address the disparities that plague the U.S. health care system.

[Apply](#) for the Bernard J. Tyson National Award.

## **Resources**

### **Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission**

- **Improvement Insights** — [Detecting and Assessing Suicidal Ideation During COVID-19](#): During the remainder of 2020, MHW clinics implemented a series of new processes, detailed in the July 2021 issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, to improve identification of suicide risk during virtual visits.
- **Dateline @ TJC** — [Root Cause Analysis Tool Stands the Test of Time for Accredited Organizations During COVID-19](#): Much has changed at The Joint Commission since the Root Cause Analysis became health care’s primary event investigation tool in the 1980s, but the questioning why the event occurred still guides health care organizations through the drilling down process today. Remarkably, as we wade through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sentinel event information we received from our



**Bernard J. Tyson National Award  
for Excellence in Pursuit of  
Healthcare Equity**

Award application open now through Aug. 6

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accredited organizations, most organizations still used the framework to report possible sentinel events, writes Erin Lawler, Human Factors Engineer, and Kathleen Bateman, Patient Safety Specialist.

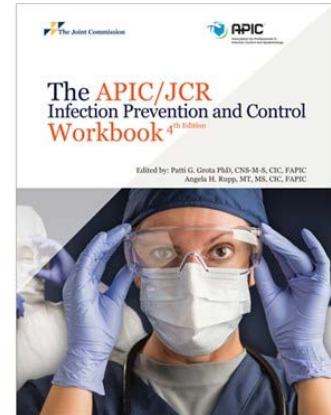
## Joint Commission Resources

### Coming soon: 4<sup>th</sup> edition of APIC/JCR Infection Prevention and Control Workbook

Soon to publish is a new fourth edition of the *Infection Prevention and Control Workbook* from the Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology (APIC) and Joint Commission Resources (JCR).

The workbook, which is scheduled to be released in mid-July, features information from experts around the world about infection prevention and control in all health care settings and offers authoritative guidance, best practices, practical tools, valuable checklists and more resources.

The workbook also covers Joint Commission accreditation standards and their applicability and relevance. This edition now covers Joint Commission International standards, so readers can see the applicability of the content through an international lens.



The workbook has been designated a Doody's Core Title for five years in a row. The new fourth edition also features:

- Resources and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic
- New and updated downloadable tools, including new risk assessment tools
- New and updated case studies
- A methodology for determining care in a high-level containment care unit
- Responding to an infectious disease emergency
- Optimizing the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

The book is available for preorder on JCR's website. The ebook is priced at \$139, while a soft-cover copy of the book is available for \$149. A site license for the workbook costs \$299.

[Preorder](#) the workbook.

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

