

Joint Commission Online

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Accreditation

Learn about modifications to EC survey process



The Joint Commission has modified its Environment of Care (EC) survey process for ambulatory surgery centers (those that are deemed and/or assigned life safety code surveyors), critical access hospitals, and hospitals.

The change — which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2021 — eliminates the one-hour, sit-down EC discussion with members of the safety or EC committee. Content from this session will be integrated into the document review and building tours conducted by the Life Safety Code® surveyors. Also, EC topics will be incorporated during individual tracer activities completed by the clinical surveyors.

To supplement this change, the annual Survey Activity Guide will provide the Life Safety and Environment of Care Document List and Review Tool that includes additional EC standards and the organizational survey agenda. (Contact: Jim Kendig, jkendig@jointcommission.org, Laura Smith, lsmith@jointcommission.org)

Quality and safety

Reminder: Submit your Eisenberg Award nominations by Nov. 20

The deadline to submit nominations for the [2020 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards](#) is Friday, Nov. 20.

The Eisenberg Awards, established by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and The Joint Commission, recognize major achievements of individuals and organizations to improve patient safety and health care quality, which are consistent with the aims of the National Quality Strategy — better care, healthy people and communities, and affordable care.

Health care organizations submitting nominations for the Local or National Level Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality awards must be able to provide evidence of sustained improvements made by their initiative for at least 12 months. Exceptions will be made to this rule for initiatives related to COVID-19 and pandemic response efforts, as The Joint Commission and NQF recognize the need to share best practices for the rapid improvement of COVID-19 patient care nationwide. Nominations also are accepted in the Individual Achievement category to recognize a lifetime body of work.

For more information on award categories and submission requirements, please visit the [Eisenberg Awards webpage](#).

[Submit](#) your nomination and application fee by Nov. 20 for consideration.

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- **Improvement Insights** — [Daily Safety Briefings in Pediatric Emergency Department](#): In our pediatric Emergency Department (ED), we have long been committed to promoting safety culture among our staff and have implemented quality improvement projects and strategies that seek to improve patient safety. Safety briefings, also known as “safety huddles,” are one of the strategies that have contributed to

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improving safety culture in hospitals all over the world, writes Gonzalo Solís-García, MD, and Cristina Castro-Rodríguez, MD.

- **Quality in Nursing Center Care** — [Winning Practices as COVID-19 Evolves in Nursing Homes](#): In a matter of weeks, so many organizations changed their entire practice models. The Nursing Care Center organizations Sandra Carey, RN, BSN, MBA, CPHQ, has surveyed have inspired her and some of their innovative ideas could easily be replicated in other nursing homes. Here are some highlights on the ingenious ways staff are finding workarounds during this difficult time.

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