Accreditation

Are you ready? Revised NPSG on suicide prevention takes effect July 1

Seven new and revised elements of performance (EPs) to be scored at National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 15.01.01 for all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and behavioral health care organizations are set to take effect on July 1.

These new requirements are designed to improve the quality and safety of care for those who are being treated for behavioral health conditions and those who are identified as high risk for suicide.

The revised NPSG — which now is more specific and instructional, and aligns with current research and expert panel recommendations — includes the following:

- Behavioral health care organizations, psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units in general hospitals should conduct environmental risk assessments to be ligature resistant.
- Non-psychiatric units in general hospitals are not expected to be ligature resistant; however, the units should minimize risks in the environment for patients identified at risk for suicide.
- Individuals being treated or evaluated for behavioral health conditions as their primary reason for care need to be screened for suicide risk using a validated tool. (The NPSG does not require universal screening.)
- Organizations must develop a plan to mitigate suicide based on an individual’s overall level of risk.
- Organizations must follow written policies and procedures for counseling and follow-up care for individuals identified as at risk for suicide.

View the prepublication standards or learn more in a R3 Report, which provides the rationale and evidence behind the revisions.

Performance measurement

Hospital technical staff: Make plans to attend Pioneers in Quality™ webinar on July 23

Over the course of the latest Pioneers in Quality™ Expert to Expert Series webinars, The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) received feedback that more in-depth content was wanted on technical aspects of electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) clinical quality language (CQL) implementation. The Joint Commission, CMS, Mathematica, and ESAC are partnering to host a webinar at 11 a.m. CT on July 23 to assist hospital technical staff.

These technical staff may include electronic health record (HER) report writers, hospital information technology (IT) staff engaged in CQL and eCQM implementation, clinical informaticists, EHR analysts, and vendor staff who support hospitals in their technical eCQM and CQL implementation. This webinar will be best suited for technical staff who have familiarity with CQL concepts such as:

- Language and data processing
- Language translation and/or evaluation
- SQL and SQL-based systems
- Clinical data representation, including clinical data models and CQL terminology
During the session, participants will learn about:

- Implementing CQL and architecture-level content about how the reporting should work in technical environments (especially in an SQL-based DBMS).
- How CQL compares to SQL.
- Using CQL in a database environment to calculate a measure.

The 90-minute session also will feature a Q&A session.

Register.

Resources

Webinar replay: Learn how to develop a reporting culture at your organization
For those who were unable to attend “Developing a Reporting Culture” earlier this month, The Joint Commission has released a webinar replay — complete with presentation slides and other resources. By visiting the webinar replay page, there still is an opportunity to learn how to:

- Explain how system design and human performance can create risk.
- Verbalize the steps toward establishing a just culture in your own organizations.
- Address the challenges that prevent some organizations from embracing systems thinking and how to mitigate those challenges.

View the webinar replay.

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- On Infection Prevention & Control — Keeping Employees Safe is NOT an Option: Focus on Personal Protective Equipment: In 2014, when two nurses were infected with Ebola, health care facilities rushed to ensure that they had personnel trained in use of specialty personal protective equipment (PPE) to care for these highly infectious patients. There was renewed attention on availability and selection of appropriate PPE, as well as training and competency of staff who might take care of these patients. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) emphasized that organizations should follow existing regulations related to PPE and provided a task specific selection matrix.

- Ambulatory Buzz — Newest Surgical Settings Book Addresses Joint Commission Standards & Tools: In the complex and dynamic environment of the operating suite, with its clinical focus and fast-paced time pressures, opportunities for errors abound. This first-of-its-kind Joint Commission accreditation prep guide was developed by Joint Commission Resources (JCR) specifically for surgical settings. The “Survey Readiness Guide for Surgical Settings: Standards, Tracers, and Tools” provides standards, tracers, and tools geared toward perioperative care in office-based surgery practices and ambulatory surgery centers.

NAHQ's new report on quality competencies, annual conference aims to help achieve them
The National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) has issued a new report aimed at coming up with a new framework that details competencies organizations need to know in today’s health care industry. “Key Workforce Competencies for Quality-Driven Healthcare” includes:

- Data analytics
- Emerging payment models
- Integration of population health management into quality

Additionally, health care staff can learn more about how to achieve these competencies at NAHQ’s annual conference — NAHQ NEXT 2019 — from Sept. 16-18, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Something new for this conference will be an executive workshop that gives quality leaders a strategic guide to improving organizational growth. For those unable to travel, there also is a virtual attendance option. Learn more about NAHQ NEXT.

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.