Changes for Perinatal Care Certification Manual

The Joint Commission’s voluntary Perinatal Care Certification program provides an independent evaluation of perinatal health care services for accredited organizations. The program requirements in the Perinatal Care Certification Manual, along with The Joint Commission’s Perinatal Care (PC) core performance measures, are designed to help organizations manage and monitor perinatal care with the goal of improving and maintaining the health of newborns and their mothers.

In keeping with recently announced revisions, The Joint Commission is updating the Perinatal Care Certification Manual as follows.

Revised Definition of Severe Maternal Morbidity in Sentinel Event Policy
As announced in “Update: Revised Definition of Severe Maternal Morbidity in Sentinel Event Policy” (see June 2015 Perspectives” pages 1 and 3), the definition of severe maternal morbidity as a sentinel event has been refined. Effective immediately, the Perinatal Care Certification Manual glossary has been revised to complement the revised definition in the Sentinel Event Policy. Table 1 on page 13 displays the former and revised definitions.

Revision of Standard PNPI.2, EP 2
Another article, “Changes to Breast Milk Feeding Performance Measures PC-05a and PC-05” (see June 2015 Perspectives, page 11), announced that The Joint Commission is retiring the Perinatal Care (PC) core measure PC-05a: Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding Considering Mother’s Initial Feeding Plan effective with October 1, 2015, discharges.
Effective immediately, Performance Improvement Standard PNPI.2, Element of Performance (EP) 2, has been revised to complement the change. The revised requirement, which will appear on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx, will be published this fall in the E-dition®-only 2016 Perinatal Care Certification Manual. The second box below displays the revised requirements; new text is underlined, and deleted language is crossed out.

For more information, please contact Heather Martin, RN, MSN, MBA, associate project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at hmartin@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5930.

### Table 1. Definition of Severe Maternal Morbidity in Sentinel Event Policy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Former Definition</th>
<th>Revised Definition</th>
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<td>A patient safety event that occurs intrapartum through the immediate postpartum period (24 hours) that requires the transfusion of 4 or more units of blood products (fresh frozen plasma, packed red blood cells, whole blood, platelets) and/or admission to the intensive care unit (ICU). Admission to the ICU is defined as admission to a unit that provides a 24-hour medical supervision and is able to provide mechanical ventilation or continuous vasoactive drug support.</td>
<td>Severe maternal morbidity is defined, by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Society for Maternal–Fetal Medicine, as a patient safety event that occurs intrapartum through the immediate postpartum period (24 hours), that requires the transfusion of four or more units of packed red blood cells and/or admission to the intensive care unit (ICU). Facilities are strongly encouraged to review all cases of severe maternal morbidity for learning and improvement. Admission to the ICU is defined as admission to a unit that provides 24-hour medical supervision and is able to provide mechanical ventilation or continuous vasoactive drug support.</td>
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</table>

### Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements

**Revision Related to Retirement of PC-05a**

**Applicable to Perinatal Care**

**Effective immediately**

**Performance Improvement (PNPI)**

**Standard PNPI.2**

The program collects data to monitor its performance.

**Element of Performance for PNPI.2**

A 2. The program collects data on the current Joint Commission’s perinatal care core performance measures, as follows:

- PC-01 Elective delivery
- PC-02 Cesarean sections
- PC-03 Antenatal steroids
- PC-04 Health care–associated blood stream infections in newborns
- PC-05 Exclusive breast milk feeding
- PC-05a Exclusive breast milk feeding considering mother’s choice (See also PNPI.4, EP 2)

**Note:** Please refer to http://www.jointcommission.org/core_measure_sets.aspx for more information on perinatal care core performance measures.