



# More Revisions Announced for Environment of Care and Life Safety Chapters

As announced in the June and August 2016 issues of *Perspectives*, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted the 2012 editions of the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code*<sup>®\*</sup> and NFPA 99: *Health Care Facilities Code*. The Joint Commission began surveying to the 2012 codes on November 1, 2016.

The November 2016 issue of *Perspectives* introduced the revisions made to the “Environment of Care” (EC) and “Life Safety” (LS) chapters of the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals* for the ambulatory care, behavioral health care, critical access hospital, hospital, home care, and nursing care center programs. The revisions incorporated new and revised elements of performance (EPs) that correspond to the 2012 codes and allow for a more logical flow of the requirements for customer and surveyor use. These changes were effective January 9, 2017.

Recently, a few more revisions were made as a result of CMS's review of the revised EC and LS requirements. These revisions apply to the **ambulatory care, critical access hospital, hospital, nursing care center, and home care** programs. These changes are **effective July 1, 2017**, and are

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<sup>\*</sup>Life Safety Code<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.

posted on The Joint Commission website at [http://www.jointcommission.org/standards\\_information/prepublication\\_standards.aspx](http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx). The revisions will also be reflected in the spring E-dition<sup>®</sup> release of the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals* for the above programs (as well as the print publications of *2017 Update 1* for the manuals for ambulatory care organizations, home care organizations, and hospitals.)

## Looking to the Future

Future standards revisions planned for 2018 will include additional new and revised EPs in the LS and EC chapters. These EPs will encompass the survey procedures (K-Tags) that CMS has written to coincide with the 2012 *Life Safety Code* (NFPA 101) and *Health Care Facilities Code* (NFPA 99), which were not available until September 2016. The Joint Commission is currently scoring these requirements from NFPA 101 and NFPA 99 in its more broadly written EPs.

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