New “Medication Compounding” Chapter for Home Care Manual

Effective January 1, 2018, The Joint Commission will implement a new “Medication Compounding” (MC) standards chapter in the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Home Care. These requirements will apply to all compounding pharmacies seeking initial accreditation or triennial reaccreditation. These standards were adapted from The Joint Commission’s Medication Compounding Certification requirements and align with current United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP®) requirements for sterile and nonsterile preparations.

These new standards will augment current Home Care–Pharmacy accreditation requirements and meet the needs of Joint Commission–accredited customers for a more focused and specialized evaluation of pharmacy compounding practices. The chapter is divided into five sections:

1. General Responsibilities
2. Education, Training, and Evaluation
3. Compounding Sterile Preparations
4. Compounding Sterile and Nonsterile Preparations
5. Compounding Nonsterile Preparations

Because it is known that microbial contamination of compounded sterile preparations occurs through direct contact or exposure to moisture or particles in the air generated by personnel, objects, or other mechanisms, the standards focus on the following areas:

- **People**—Training, competency, proper use of personal protective equipment, aseptic technique
- **Product**—Sterility of base products, beyond-use dates, labeling
- **Environment**—Airflow, buffer areas, guidelines for cleaning and documentation, storage

The “Medication Compounding” chapter standards will be posted by the end of June on The Joint Commission website at https://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. In addition, the chapter will be included in the fall 2017 E-dition® release for the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Home Care (as well as the hard copy publications for 2018).

Questions may be directed to Kathy Clark, MSN, RN, associate project director specialist, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at kclark@jointcommission.org.

Revisions Continue for Life Safety and Environment of Care Chapters

Ongoing revisions—a result of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adoption of the 2012 editions of the National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code*® and NFPA 99: *Health Care Facilities Code*—continue for the “Life Safety” (LS) and “Environment of Care” (EC) chapters. In addition to those revisions previously announced in Perspectives (see the November 2016 issue, page 7, and the April 2017 issue, page 18), The Joint Commission has revised a number of other EC and LS requirements for the behavioral health care, laboratory, nursing care center, and office-based surgery practice programs.

The additional revisions to the LS and EC chapters include new, revised, and relocated elements of performance (EPs) that address topics such as the following:

- Testing of emergency lighting systems
- Inspection and testing of piped medical gas and vacuum systems
- Updating pertinent NFPA code numbering in references
- Adding more specificity to existing EPs

These changes are effective January 1, 2018, and will be posted by the end of June on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. The revisions will also be reflected in the fall 2017 E-dition® release and the 2018 hard copy publications of the Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals for the respective programs.

Questions may be directed to Kenneth A. Monroe, PE, MBA, CHC, PMP, associate project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, The Joint Commission, at kmonroe@jointcommission.org.