Joint Commission kicks off New Year with improvement project
The Joint Commission is working to streamline its hospital requirements. The first phase of the project has identified a number of elements of performance for deletion - none of which will change current patient care processes or affect quality and safety. The Joint Commission periodically evaluates its standards for relevancy and to address contemporary issues and customer feedback. Read about the project.

2016 reminders: accreditation-related changes now in effect
With the start of the New Year, several accreditation-related changes have taken effect. Here are a few reminders about some of those:

- Phase 2 effective for clinical alarms NPSG
- New requirements for IQCP option for clinical laboratories
- Accreditation and certification decision rules for 2016

HEADLINES

Patient blood management program: Get certified by Joint Commission, AABB
This joint hospital certification program - available in early 2016 - is based on the AABB Standards for a Patient Blood Management Program. Learn about the program.

Joint Commission president contributes to NPSF report
Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, was among a group of experts who contributed to the National Patient Safety Foundation's recent report - "Free from Harm: Accelerating Patient Safety Improvement Fifteen Years after To Err Is Human." View the report and other materials.

California: New regulations for unlicensed outpatient surgery settings
California Senate Bill 396, effective as of Jan. 1, 2016, strengthens the regulation of unlicensed outpatient surgery settings. It affects Joint Commission-accredited ambulatory surgery centers and office-based surgery practices by requiring peer reviews and unannounced inspections. Find out more.

RESOURCES

In the Journal: "Using the Targeted Solutions Tool to Improve Hand Hygiene Compliance is Associated with Decreased Health Care-Associated Infections," by M. Michael Shabot, MD, FACS, FCCM, FACMI, and Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, et al.

Quick Safety: Alleviating ED boarding of psychiatric patients: How to address the challenge of providing appropriate and timely care to all psychiatric patients in both metropolitan and rural hospitals, with the goal to help alleviate boarding.

New OSHA Web page: Preventing workplace violence in health care settings

Worried about the future of health care payment? Find out more at the Annual National Payment Innovation Summit, Feb. 10-12: This summit is the leading forum on the expansion of health care payment approaches, with a special focus on innovative payment designs and strategies for implementing value-based payment arrangements. Learn more and register

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NEWSLINKS

High reliability: The path to zero harm | Healthcare Executive by Erin DuPree, MD, CMO and VP, Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare

As patients turn violent, doctors and nurses try to protect themselves | STAT

The Joint Commission names Top Performers, notes 'dramatic' quality improvements | HealthLeaders Media

Credentialing monthly: What is the role of the credentials committee in addressing unprofessional conduct? | HealthLeaders Media

Emerging crisis for seniors: It's probably not what you think | The Huffington Post

Hospitals must take proactive approach against violence | Fierce Healthcare

Antibiotic resistance causing issues for surgical patients | Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons
If you would like to be a Featured Physician, write for the Joint Commission's Physician blog, or have a topic you'd like to see us cover, please email us!