HEADLINES

$2 million in grants available for improving VTE transitions of care
The Joint Commission, Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change and Bristol-Myers Squibb Independent Medical Education are collaborating to offer $2 million in grants for improving transitions of care (TOC) for patients with venous thromboembolism (VTE). View the RFP.

New Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification program
On July 1, 2015, The Joint Commission will launch a new advanced certification program for Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals, geared towards accredited rural hospitals without resources to achieve Primary Stroke Center certification. The requirements were developed with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association and a group of national stroke experts. Read more.

Pathology Advisory Committee formed
A Pathology Advisory Committee comprised of nationally known pathologists has been formed by The Joint Commission. The purpose of the committee is to involve pathologists in developing and refining requirements, so that anatomic pathology concerns are as well represented in the standards and survey process as clinical pathology is now. Read more.

Patient Safety Awareness Week: March 8-14
Led by the National Patient Safety

What’s new in your organization?
As a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient, we are always active in learning opportunities and performance improvement. As part of our ongoing quest for the Triple Aim, we developed clinical service line groups with dyadic and triadic leadership structures (administrator, nurse and physician) charged with the responsibility to develop goals in quality, cost and experience,
measure specific parameters in meaningful ways, implement performance improvement plans including rapid cycle and LEAN change techniques and provide reports on the progress. Each service area contains multiple care models with evidence-based care pathways for each stage of the care continuum and everyone involved in these teams has concrete tasks oriented towards improving care delivery. I co-chair the enterprise Evidence-Based Care Models Committee that oversees this work and provide facilitative leadership support to all of our workgroups. I am also responsible for engaging the providers in the work and serve to continually deliver the message of patient-centric, integrated care. Along the way, we have discovered that big data is not enough. It must be translated to actionable information and transparently displayed to all who impact the outcomes.

Who inspires you?
Two people immediately come to mind. First, my son. Born 10 weeks premature, with lungs not yet ready to sustain life, he barely survived his first night. 62 days later, the incredibly talented NICU team gave us the opportunity to bring him home. Within a month, he developed cor pulmonale and was flown to a tertiary care center. For the second time in his short life, his mother and I were prepared to lose him and were again supported by a warm and loving healthcare environment. Fortunately, we were able to bring him home again 32 days later. That was in 2003. Today, a healthy, thriving 12-year old, I hold him as my inspiration for drive and persistence. When life gets tough and I am challenged to find answers, I remember watching him demonstrate the strength necessary for survival and realize the obstacles before me are not insurmountable.

The second is my grandmother. At

Foundation and supported by The Joint Commission, Patient Safety Awareness Week begins March 8. For more than 60 years, The Joint Commission has been a champion of patient safety. Read more.

PEOPLE

Baker to lead Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation:
David W. Baker, M.D., FACP, M.P.H., has been appointed executive vice president for The Joint Commission's Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation. Baker will oversee the development of The Joint Commission's health care quality evaluation tools, performance measures, standards, and survey methods for all accreditation and certification programs. Since 2002, Baker has been chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, as well as deputy director of its Institute for Public Health and Medicine. Read more.

New clinical director for Laboratory program
John D. Cochran M.D., FCAP, was appointed to the newly created position of clinical director of The Joint Commission's Laboratory Accreditation program. One of the goals of the position is to ensure that quality diagnostic care is given to patients. Cochran is also laboratory director at Pathology Lab of Georgia, LLC, Decatur, Georgia, and has been a Joint Commission laboratory surveyor since 2011. Cochran completed his medical and pathology training at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

RESOURCES
age 82, with 10 children, 56 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, she developed acute respiratory failure. A long-time exposure to second hand smoke coupled with sarcoidosis had taken its toll and she faced her own mortality. Her only request was to die peacefully at home, on her farm of 56 years. Gifted as the matriarch I knew her to be, she bravely put her family and care givers at ease with the concept. Case managers arranged the ride home and hospice staff met her at the farm where family awaited. She sat on the porch, looking out over the pastures and distant pond one last time before retiring to the front bedroom where they extubated her and made her comfortable. Her bravery and leadership, combined with a powerful faith in God, sticks with me as we discuss the role for compassionate care and end-of-life decision-making throughout our society.

Read the full interview

---

**Joint Commission Journal** article: "Using Lean-Six Sigma to Reduce Hemolysis in the Emergency Care Center in a Collaborative Quality Improvement Project with the Hospital Laboratory," by Charlotte Damato, BA, MA; Dana Rickard, BS, MT

**Quick Safety, Issue 10**: Preventing copy-and-paste errors in EHRs

---

**Blogs, Podcasts & Webinars**

**A helping hand: Continuing improvement in hand hygiene**: Daniel J. Castillo, M.D., M.B.A., medical director, The Joint Commission, explains why organizations are tackling hand hygiene compliance in this KevinMD Blog.

**A peek behind the curtain**: Merranda Logan, M.D., patient safety and quality improvement fellow at Harvard Medical School and a visiting fellow at The Joint Commission, talks about what she has learned.

**Hospital security - Different approaches to mitigate violence**: Mark Crafton, M.P.A., MT (ASCP), executive director, Communications & External Relations, talks about violence in health care facilities.

**All patients, all together**: Phillip Shaffer, customer relations project manager, The Joint Commission, talks about the importance of Patient Safety Awareness Week.

**Patient Safety**: Dr. Ronald Wyatt, medical director with The Joint Commission, discusses patient safety and the commitment of ensuring that patients everywhere receive the safest, most reliable care across the care continuum. [Podcast - 6:16]

---

**NEWS**

New Joint Commission Exec Eyes Advanced Use of E-clinical Measures | Hospitals and Health Networks

When should I start thinking about hospice care, for myself or a loved one? | Washington Post

National Patient Safety Foundation announces new member
Ana Pujols McKee, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, The Joint Commission

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!