Recent statement clarifies pain management standards
When trying to make sense of the prescription opioid epidemic, people are quick to try and place blame, and a target of that criticism is The Joint Commission's pain standards, says David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP, executive vice president, Healthcare Quality Evaluation, in a recently released statement. Dr. Baker encourages critics to look at the exact standards to fully understand what accredited organizations are required to do with regard to pain. The entire statement, the pain standards, and a video of Dr. Baker debunking the pain standards myths, is available on the Pain Management Web page.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. SAFER™: New scoring methodology
Project REFRESH, The Joint Commission's multiphase process improvement project, includes a transformative approach for identifying and communicating risk levels associated with deficiencies cited during surveys. This Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk (SAFER™) approach provides organizations with additional information related to risk of deficiencies to help prioritize and focus corrective actions. See the SAFER matrix™ to the right. Read more

2. Not the same old Standards FAQs
See the new look and format of The Joint Commission's Standards FAQs. It's now easier to find important information about patient safety and health care quality. The answers to the Standards FAQs are vetted by The Joint Commission's Standards Interpretation Group and are the most current information available.

3. Updated, user-friendly Leading Practice Library launches
The Joint Commission's updated Leading Practice Library (LPL) provides a more user-friendly experience for customers. The LPL is a complimentary tool available to accredited and certified organizations via their secure extranet. Documents in the LPL are real-life solutions that have been successfully implemented by health care organizations.
RESOURCES


Quick Safety: Issue 23, "Implicit bias in health care." Also, listen to podcasts featuring Patient Safety Officer and Medical Director Ronald M. Wyatt, MD, MHA, talking about addressing bias in health care and about how his mission for health equity stems from a personal tragedy.

ECRI Institute's Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns include failure to embrace safety culture: ECRI Institute's recently released 2016 list of the Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns for Healthcare Organizations includes a new addition - failure to embrace a safety culture. Read the report.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN

Mohamad Ussama Al Homsi, MD
Senior Consultant and Acting Chairman
Hematology/Oncology Department
National Center for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR)
Hamad General Hospital
Doha, Qatar
Joint Commission Fellow

Dr. Al Homsi is a medical oncologist treating cancer patients, with his main interest being lung cancer, head and neck cancer and skin cancers. He spends a significant part of his time handling administration issues because of his position as acting chairman for the hematology and oncology department. Find out more about Dr. Al Homsi.

RECOGNITION

Najmedin (Najm) Meshkati, PhD, was named The Joint Commission 2016 Ernest Amory Codman Award® Lectureship honoree. Dr. Meshkati is a professor of civil/environmental engineering, industrial and systems engineering, and international relations at the University of Southern California. Dr. Meshkati has been a trailblazer and innovator in his field, and has been dedicated to solving high-risk problems, such as risk reduction and reliability enhancement, in the field of complex technological systems, including nuclear power plants. Read more or find out how Dr. Meshkati felt after receiving the honor.

Joint Commission President and CEO Mark R. Chassin, MD, was named one of Modern Healthcare's Top 50 Most Influential Physician Executives and Leaders. Dr. Chassin was No. 20 on the list. The ballot comprised 150 names, and more than 27,000 votes were submitted. Reader votes counted for 50 percent of the outcome,
while the other 50 percent was based on selections by Modern Healthcare's senior editors. Read more.

Three Joint Commission leaders - Mark R. Chassin, MD, David W. Baker, MD, and Ronald Wyatt, MD, were named to Becker's Healthcare 2016 "50 Experts Leading the Field of Patient Safety." The list features clinicians, advocates and legislators who work tirelessly to eliminate medical errors and improve safety in the industry. Experts were selected based on editorial research and discretion. View the list, as well as biographies on the three Joint Commission leaders.

EYE ON AHA PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

News from the American Hospital Association's Physician Leadership Forum e-newsletter.

Resources available to help hospitals combat emerging cyber threats
Recently, the AHA sent out a cybersecurity advisory to its members. The AHA is working with federal partners to enhance information sharing and disseminate best practices for protecting critical infrastructure from cyberattacks. A suite of resources, ranging from podcasts on emerging threats to leadership questions for hospital leaders and trustees, can be found on the AHA's Cybersecurity webpage.

NEWSLINKS

Health care organizations to emulate: An interview with Thomas H. Lee, MD, MSc & Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH | NEJM Catalyst

Joint Commission creates palliative care certification for home health and hospice facilities | Becker's Infection Control & Clinical Quality

New 2017 National Patient Safety Goal focuses on CAUTI prevention | Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare

Patient suicide risk highlighted by Joint Commission alert | HCPro

Traditional providers get into the urgent-care game | The Wall Street Journal

Total hip and knee replacement certification focuses on continuum of care | 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!