In September 2012, The Joint Commission launched its Advanced Disease-Specific Care Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSC) program in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (see October 2012 Perspectives, pages 6–7). The program was designed to improve the quality and safety of care for patients with complex strokes—that is, those who require more specialized diagnostic testing, interventions, and care than those receiving care at Primary Stroke Centers—by recognizing hospitals that provide evidence-based comprehensive stroke care.

During the first months of CSC reviews, several issues were identified that required more research, including these:

- CSC volumes for aneurysmal clippings, aneurysmal coilings, and aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhages
- Model of neuro-ICU care pertaining to physician and mid-level practitioners providing direct care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Peer review requirement
- Specification needed for the complication rate requirements

In addition, because the science of stroke care continues to evolve, The Joint Commission evaluated recent research to determine whether further revisions to the CSC requirements were necessary.

During the summer of 2013, after evaluating and revising the program requirements, The Joint Commission conducted a field review of the proposed revisions and held discussions with professional organizations and experts in the field. This process resulted in revisions effective July 1, 2014, for all five standards chapters for the CSC advanced certification program.

Organizations can view the revised program requirements on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. The requirements also will be published in both the spring 2014 E-dition® update and the 2014 Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual. Questions may be directed to Kelly Podgorny, DNP, RN, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at kpodgorny@jointcommission.org.