Joint Commission celebrates more than 100 Comprehensive Stroke Centers

The Joint Commission’s advanced certification program for comprehensive stroke centers (CSC) is celebrating a new milestone — it has reached more than 100 certified centers.

The Joint Commission’s Disease-Specific Care Certification CSC program was developed in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA), and recognizes hospitals that have demonstrated a state-of-the-art infrastructure, staff expertise in the provision of stroke care, and advanced training to receive and treat patients with the most complex stroke diagnosis, who are focused on providing high quality, safe care to stroke patients.

CSCs are recognized as industry leaders and are responsible for setting the national agenda in highly specialized stroke care. CSC-certified organizations are positioned as the resource center for primary stroke centers and acute stroke ready hospital certified organizations in the stroke system of care. In 2008, when The Joint Commission first began envisioning the certification levels for stroke centers to meet the needs of various stroke populations across the country, certification standards needed to be flexible to meet the needs of patients in academic medical centers, community hospitals and critical access hospitals. The development of the comprehensive stroke center was the obvious choice for an advanced level of stroke care centers that could intervene and provide the skill level and expertise in partnership with community hospitals and critical access hospitals. Comprehensive Stroke Center certification hospitals have advanced diagnostic capabilities, and specialists who can perform invasive procedures including neuro surgery, endovascular coiling and clipping, as well as the ability to achieve excellent patient outcomes. Congratulations to The Joint Commission customers who have achieved comprehensive stroke center certification.

Johns Hopkins CSC leader discusses certification process

Certification Matters recently interviewed Dr. Victor Cruz Urrutia, associate professor and medical director at The Johns Hopkins Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center, about the organization’s experience with The Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) certification program. Johns Hopkins’ CSC program has been certified by The Joint Commission since 2013.
Urrutia listed several key benefits to the certification process, including:

- Allowing Johns Hopkins to provide continuous quality of care to stroke patients
- Putting a patient standards system in place to collect data on complex stroke patients to ensure better quality and processes
- Giving the hospital a chance to participate in a national forum regarding this program

**Certification Matters:** Why did your organization seek CSC certification by The Joint Commission?

**Dr. Victor Cruz Urrutia:** We had decided to pursue Joint Commission Comprehensive Stroke Center certification because we wanted to continue to grow by meeting all of the Joint Commission standards. This would enhance our program by collecting data and improving care for our patients.

**CM:** What was your organization’s experience?

**Urrutia:** We had a collegial and collaborative experience in our CSC certification review. We learned from the experience, and everything was upfront. There were no surprises at the end.

**CM:** What was it like working with Joint Commission reviewers?

**Urrutia:** Our reviewers were very knowledgeable and detail-oriented. It was a very good experience. We appreciated that the reviewers had such expertise. We felt the reviewers were forthcoming and transparent throughout the whole process.

Find out more about [CSC certification](#).

**Joint Commission suspends CSTK-07, median time to revascularization**

The Joint Commission is suspending the Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSTK)-07 measure — median time to revascularization — until further notice. This action follows reports from comprehensive stroke centers of data collection issues involving the First Pass data elements.

This measure is one of eight CSTK measures required to meet performance measurement requirements for Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification. Suspension of data collection for this measure is retroactive for discharges on and after Jan. 1, 2016.

A new measure — CSTK-09, arrival time to skin puncture — will be added to the measure set for implementation Jan. 1, 2017.

**Joint Commission launches Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement certification**

On March 14, standards for The Joint Commission’s new advanced certification program for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement became effective.

The program was designed to elevate the quality, consistency and safety of these services in hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers with the goal of fostering more cost-effective and safe, quality care.

Additional reasons for developing the program were:

- The increased number of patients seeking this procedure
- An increased focus on adherence to standardized clinical pathways and clinical evidence-based patient care as they relate to pain management
- Quality of life issues faced by patients in need of joint replacement
- Functional limitations in mobility and the return to normal daily activities while minimizing postoperative complications, such as infection and thrombosis

For more information: The Joint Commission Certification [Web page](#)
Send questions or comments to: [dscinfo@jointcommission.org](mailto:dscinfo@jointcommission.org) or [staffingcert@jointcommission.org](mailto:staffingcert@jointcommission.org)
To assist customers with meeting the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ bundled payment initiative, which went into effect April 1

Key characteristics of the program – which addresses transitions of care — focus on:

- Consistent communication and collaboration of all health care providers involved, as well as shared decision-making throughout the continuum of care — from orthopedic consultation through a follow-up visit.
- Procedures are performed in inpatient hospitals, hospital-based outpatient (same-day surgery), and ambulatory care settings (free standing).
- Patient education of the total hip and total knee replacement process in the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative phases.

The standardized performance measures based on current industry requirements are in development and will not be finalized until 2017. Until then, an organization is required to submit non-standardized measures. The Joint Commission is currently certifying programs and accepting applications. Request an application, or find out more information by emailing certification@jointcommission.org or calling 630-792-5291.

Learn more about the program, including the requirements.

Perinatal Care certification going strong, seeking more applicants

The Joint Commission began accepting applications for the Perinatal Care certification program in July of 2015. Many programs have completed an on-site review or are being scheduled for their review at this time.

The Joint Commission’s Perinatal Care certification program uses consensus-based standards, clinical practice guidelines and The Joint Commission’s Perinatal Care (PC) core performance measures for managing and monitoring aspects of perinatal care that are critical to improving and maintaining the health of newborns and their mothers.

While the focus of this certification is on the integrated, coordinated, patient-centered care of clinically uncomplicated pregnancies and births, programs seeking certification will need to demonstrate their ability to provide direct care, or to stabilize and safely transfer, mothers and/or newborns who require care beyond the scope of services when an identified or unanticipated high-risk pregnancy and birth, or maternal, fetal and newborn problem occurs.

As a reminder, the core PC measure set is required for all certified programs, regardless of the annual number of births. These measures are:

- PC-01: Elective Delivery
- PC-02: Cesarean Section
- PC-03: Antenatal Steroids
- PC-04: Health Care–Associated Bloodstream Infections in Newborns
- PC-05: Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding (Read the specification manual about this measure set)

These core performance measures are designed to improve:

- Reduction in infant mortality rates
- Reduction in maternal complications and mortality
- Reduction of unnecessary induction of labor
- Reduction of elective deliveries that can lead to an increase in neonatal intensive care unit admission rates
- Reduction of complication of deliveries
- Reduction of prematurity rates that can lead to infant mortality
- Reduction in costs associated with lengthy hospitals stays due to pregnancy-related complications

For more information: The Joint Commission Certification Web page
Send questions or comments to: dscinfo@jointcommission.org or staffingcert@jointcommission.org
For more information about this certification program, contact the certification team at 630-792-5291 or email certification@jointcommission.org.

Welcome to the team!
The Joint Commission's certification team recently welcomed two new additions — Dr. Brian Johnson and Patrick Phelan, both associate directors in the division of business development. Johnson and Phelan will be supporting Disease-Specific Care Certification programs, which include options like stroke, total hip and total knee replacement, sepsis, and chest pain.

Johnson is a licensed health care professional with 20 years of experience in health care administration, sales and business development. He spent several years as a scientific program specialist at the National Cancer Institute, market development manager for Cardinal Health, Inc., and as COO of an independent retail long-term care pharmacy. He can be reached by email or by phone at 630-792-5144.

Phelan comes from a sales and marketing background in the health care field, most recently with a medical device startup. He received his master’s degree in business from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Nebraska. He can be reached by email or by phone at 630-792-5145.

See you there!
Catch the certification team at the following conferences:
- Ambulatory Surgery Center Association: May 19-22, in Dallas, Texas
- National Association of Orthopedic Nurses: May 21-23, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- Joint Commission Resources Stroke Seminar: June 9, in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology: June 11-13, in Charlotte, North Carolina
- The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses: June 12-15, in Grapevine, Texas

Resources
New issues of Quick Safety:
Issue 23 – April 2016: Implicit bias in health care
Issue 22 – March 2016: Patient Safety Systems chapter: A must-read
Issue 21 – February 2016: Informed consent: More than getting a signature
Issue 20 – January 2016: Strategies to prevent URFOs

New Sentinel Event Alert:
Sentinel Event Alert 56: Detecting and treating suicide ideation in all settings

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