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Certification

Michigan hospital among first to earn Medication Compounding Certification
Genesys Regional Medical Center, Grand Blanc, Michigan, is among the first organizations to receive The Joint Commission’s Medication Compounding Certification. Home I.V. Care, Inc., of Madison Heights, Michigan, was the first home care organization to receive the certification.

Medication Compounding Certification is based on standards from the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP®) to help compounding pharmacies ensure compliance with standards related to the process, testing and verification of compounded sterile and nonsterile preparations.

“The Joint Commission congratulates Genesys Regional Medical Center and Home I.V. Care, Inc., for being the first organizations to receive this important achievement in their fields,” said Patrick Phelan, executive director, Hospital Business Development at The Joint Commission.

Medication or pharmacy compounding is when a licensed pharmacist combines, mixes or alters ingredients to create a prescription medication tailored to the medical needs of a patient. The practice became a widespread patient safety and quality concern after a 2012 multistate meningitis outbreak from a contaminated compounded medication. As a result, many state legislatures and boards of pharmacy began to enhance and strengthen their laws and regulations, including Michigan, where The Joint Commission piloted its certification program in response to a requirement from the state board of pharmacy for compounding pharmacies to obtain certification. The Joint Commission expects to certify more than 75 organizations in Michigan this year.

To help compounding pharmacies comply with these laws and regulations, as well as to achieve optimal patient safety and quality of care in compounding practices, The Joint Commission’s Medication Compounding Certification provides states with an independent evaluation and validation of compliance with leading best practices and USP General Chapters <795> (non-sterile preparations) and <797> (sterile preparations), as well as the use and preparation of hazardous drugs, which will be addressed in the upcoming USP <800>.

The Medication Compounding Certification program, awarded for a two-year period, launched on Jan. 1. This certification is available for all compounding pharmacies. Learn more about Medication Compounding Certification.
New SAFER™ Matrix Resources portal: Gateway to understanding scoring methodology

The Joint Commission has created a one-stop shop for information and resources on the Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk™ (SAFER™) Matrix, the scoring methodology that went into effect for all Joint Commission accreditation and certification programs on Jan. 1.

The SAFER™ Matrix Resources web portal features:
- A SAFER™ webinar replay and slide deck that discusses the conception of the SAFER™ Matrix and includes examples to illustrate key concepts
- A Take 5 podcast that provides a foundational understanding of the SAFER™ Matrix and related information
- An interactive demo video that gives a walkthrough of the new SAFER™ Matrix tool located on an organization’s secure Joint Commission Connect® website
- A Frequently Asked Questions video that covers some of the most commonly asked questions

These resources will help organizations:
- Understand the overall concept of the SAFER™ Matrix and identify key elements of the SAFER™ Matrix process
- Learn how the SAFER™ Matrix is scored in the field
- Access details surrounding the new Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) fields
- Take advantage of ongoing free educational opportunities on this topic from The Joint Commission

The SAFER™ Matrix’s primary benefit is that it helps organizations prioritize areas of risk, what to address and where to focus resources following a survey. It provides a single, comprehensive visual representation of survey findings, in which all Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) are plotted according to the likelihood of potential harm to patients, staff or visitors, and pervasiveness of the problem — based on surveyor observations. This allows surveyors to perform real-time, on-site evaluations of deficiencies. Placement of RFIs within the matrix determine the level of detail required within each RFI’s Evidence of Standards Compliance follow-up.

View the SAFER™ Matrix Resources web portal. (Contact: safer@jointcommission.org)

Quality and safety

Joint Commission partners with CDC to make dialysis safer

The Joint Commission has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and numerous kidney and dialysis organizations to reduce the number of bloodstream infections in dialysis patients.

The Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition encourages the implementation of interventions developed by the CDC, which have proven to reduce the number of bloodstream infections by half. Each year, about 37,000 people get potentially deadly bloodstream infections related to their dialysis treatment, according to the CDC.

In addition to promoting the use of CDC’s Core Interventions for Dialysis Bloodstream Infection Prevention, coalition partners have committed to raising awareness among patients and health care providers about the importance of infection prevention, and sharing best practices. The coalition is also working with dialysis delivery organizations to accelerate the implementation of CDC recommendations. (Contact: Kristen Witalka, kwitalka@jointcommission.org)
Resources

New Joint Commission Blogs:
Quality, Reliability & Leadership: Safety Culture: Shattering the Myths of Perfection and Punishment
Dateline @ TJC: Making Dialysis Safer for Patients
On Infection Prevention & Control: Putting a Stop to Medication Compounding-Related Infections

New issues of Quick Safety:
Issue 32 – April 2017: Crash-cart preparedness
Issue 31 – March 2017: Strong MRI safety programs prevent safety events

New Sentinel Event Alert:
Issue 57 – March 2017: The essential role of leadership in developing a safety culture

New R³ Report:
Issue 10 – March 2017: Housing support services standards for Behavioral Health Care