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Accreditation

Nursing Care Centers Accreditation program celebrates 50th anniversary
The Joint Commission is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Nursing Care Centers Accreditation program. The celebration started May 23.

To commemorate the anniversary, a Top 10 list was created to highlight the transformations for the Nursing Care Center program. See the list below:

Top 10 Transformations for the Nursing Care Center program over 50 years
1. The Joint Commission’s Long Term Care Accreditation program is established. The standards are published in an eight-page manual. Representatives from the American Association of Homes for the Aging and the American Nursing Home Association are added to the Joint Commission’s Board of Commissioners. (1966)
2. Scoring guidelines for the long-term care standards are published for the first time. (1989)
3. The Joint Commission’s first national long-term care conference is held. (1992)
4. The Joint Commission begins surveying dementia special care units. (1994)
5. The first Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Long Term Care is published. (1996)
6. The first National Patient Safety Goals for improving the safety of resident care in long-term care organizations are established. (2002)
8. The Long Term Care Accreditation program (its standards, survey process and offerings) undergoes a reinvention. The program is renamed Nursing Care Center Accreditation program. (2013)
9. The program launches its first add-on certification in Post-acute Care. (2013)
10. The program launches its second add-on certification in Memory Care. (2014)

HR.02.01.04 most challenging requirement for 2015 for nursing care centers
According to statistics from 2015, Human Resources (HR) standard HR.02.01.04 is the top compliance issue for Joint Commission-accredited nursing care centers, as 36 percent fell short of meeting the standard. The data represents citations only from organizations due to be surveyed during this time period – that is, data from for-cause surveys are not included.

The standard states, “The organization permits licensed independent practitioners to provide care, treatment and services.”
To help organizations get into compliance with the standard, *InTouch* reached out to Lynette Gibbney, RN, BSN, MBA, associate director, Standards Interpretation Group, for some tips. First, she mentioned that organizations need to define their scope of care and services, as well as to define information about patients, diagnoses and treatments.

Another tip was to identify which practitioners are considered licensed independent practitioners (LIPs), and who will be required to be credentialed and privileged.

“Want you to be able to identify what types of independent practitioners you’re going to allow to be privileged — nurse practitioners, physician assistants, doctors — and who will be required to be credentialed,” she said. “I get a lot of questions about that one, such as, ‘Does the nurse practitioner need to be credentialed?’ Yes, they do.”

She said it also is important to identify the scope of practice for each type of licensed independent practitioner in accordance with the law and regulation of their own state.

Another tip is to develop a process to obtain the required information for credentialing core criteria, like primary source verification, a National Practitioner Data Bank query for any sanctions against the licensed independent practitioner’s license or using a credentials verification organization.

Organizations should also obtain formal approval of the defined processes for credentialing from an appropriate leader, like an administrator, or the organization’s medical director.

One common mistake Gibbney has seen is that organizations fail to document the decision of the governing body or administrator as to the appointment and the privileges granted to practitioners, as well as the time period for which the appointment or privileging is granted, which should not exceed two years.

“Many organizations appoint practitioners, and then two or three years later when The Joint Commission comes to survey the organization, their practitioners’ appointments and privileges are all out of date,” she said. "It can’t be more than two years since those were granted."

To see the remaining top compliance issues for nursing care centers, see the table below. For questions, contact the Standards Interpretation Group at 630-792-5900 or complete the [online question form](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-compliance percentage</th>
<th>Standard/NPSG</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>HR.02.01.04</td>
<td>The organization permits licensed independent practitioners to provide care, treatment and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>PC.01.02.07</td>
<td>The organization assesses and manages the patient’s or resident’s pain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>MM.03.01.01</td>
<td>The organization safely stores medications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>HR.01.02.05</td>
<td>The organization verifies staff qualifications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>PC.01.03.01</td>
<td>The organization plans the patient’s or resident’s care.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New prepublication standards released for NPSG on CAUTIs**

The Joint Commission recently approved a new National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) focusing on catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) for accredited nursing care centers.

The standards are effective Jan. 1, 2017.

[View](#) the prepublication standards.
Biondi named new chair of Joint Commission’s Nursing Care Center PTAC

The Joint Commission recently appointed a new chairman to the Nursing Care Center Professional and Technical Advisory Council. Stephen Biondi, RN, MSN, NHA, president of Biondi and Associates, LLC, a long-term care consulting business, has been tapped to lead the group.

PTAC members advise on proposed new and revised standards. Members include professionals from the field who represent national associations, as well as advocates. The PTAC is composed primarily of individuals nominated by selected professional associations.

Biondi began his second stint on the Nursing Care Center PTAC in 2012 as a representative for the American Health Care Association (AHCA).

“I was glad to do it, and I’m very pleased to have the honor,” Biondi said in a recent interview with InTouch.

He said he has experience being the chairman of advisory groups, and he looks forward to being such with the PTAC.

“I’m focused on patient quality and how we can improve quality,” he said. “My interest is to make sure that we try to be holistic in our thinking about care.”

Biondi previously was vice president of Extendicare Health Services, Inc., which was based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, until 2015. He began his career with Extendicare in 1987 and has served as vice president of clinical services, vice president of operations and as corporate quality officer, as well as a variety of other roles in the health care business sector.

He has been certified as a surveyor by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and is a registered nurse and nursing home administrator. In 2004, he pursued nursing as a secondary focus of study to augment his skill set.

“The purpose of that was to round out my knowledge and understanding to be able to make a difference in the quality and care that we provide in post-acute care — in nursing homes and other post-acute settings,” Biondi said. “It’s really an interest in finding ways where we can serve and do a better job or provide better quality. That’s been my mission and my goal throughout my life.”

Biondi is an active member of AHCA and was chairman of its Survey and Regulatory Committee from 2008-2015. In the past, he also served on its Facility Standards and Quality Committees. He also is a master quality examiner for AHCA. Biondi also has worked as a volunteer nursing home ombudsman. He holds both a master’s degree in health care management and nursing. Currently, Biondi is completing work on a doctorate in nursing at Marquette University.

Resources

New on the web

• Free webinars, held noon-12:30 p.m. CT:
  o June 22: Memory Care Certification for Nursing Care Centers