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Performance measurement

Pioneers in Quality™: Proven Practices Collection recognizes hospitals’ eCQM best practices

If your hospital has a success story about electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) capture and submission, The Joint Commission wants to hear about it and share it with other accredited hospitals via the new 2017 Pioneers in Quality™: Proven Practices Collection. Hospitals whose submissions are selected as Proven Practices also will be recognized as Pioneer in Quality Solution Contributors in The Joint Commission’s annual report, and may be featured in future Pioneers in Quality™ webinars. Submissions for the Proven Practices Collection are being accepted until May 19.

Submissions must display accomplishments that are clearly linked to the use of eCQMs and health information technology (IT), including:

- Using eCQMs as part of organizational quality improvement efforts
- Harmonizing clinical decision support and quality measurement
- Optimizing clinical workflow to support eCQM collection alongside quality care
- Effectively managing clinical and administrative data
- Aligning quality reporting and operational measurement goals
- Educating clinicians on quality improvement and electronic data collection

Eligible submissions must be from Joint Commission-accredited organizations that are:

- In the process of preparing for 2018 submission (2017 eCQM data) or have previously submitted eCQM data to either The Joint Commission or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Willing to present or share their Proven Practice in The Joint Commission’s 2017 Proven Practices Collection

Evaluation criteria will assess:

- The practice’s contribution to health IT-enabled quality improvement
- The level of the project’s impact
- Replicability and sustainability of the practice

Soon, a PDF sample submission will be posted to the webpage. It is recommended that organizations review the sample prior to beginning their own applications. Organizations selected for recognition will be notified in July 2017. Application-specific feedback will not be provided.

View Past Recipients of Solution Contributor recognition. Learn more about the Proven Practices Collection and register for a webinar on creating a Proven Practices submission. (Contact: pioneersinquality@jointcommission.org)
Accreditation

New standards FAQs address refrigerators in patient rooms
A new frequently asked question clarifies requirements for refrigerators in patient rooms in hospitals and hospital clinics, critical access hospitals, and home care organizations:

*When organizations provide refrigerators in patient rooms for personal use, is temperature monitoring and log maintenance required for these refrigerators?*

While there are no standards that require temperature monitoring or recording a temperature log for personal-use refrigerators in patient rooms, a process is required to make sure the refrigerator operates properly. This ensures safe storage of food. Learn more:

- **Hospital and hospital clinics**
- **Critical access hospitals**
- **Home Care**

Certification

Joint Commission, Ohio’s Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield align quality recognition criteria
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio (Anthem) now recognizes two new Joint Commission programs as eligible for incentives from the health plan’s Quality-In-Sights®: Hospital Incentive Program (Q-HIP®).

Q-HIP is Anthem’s industry-leading quality recognition program introduced in 2003, with nearly 100 hospitals participating across Ohio. Q-HIP facilities are eligible to receive incentives based on clinical quality delivered to Anthem members. With the two new recognitions, Anthem’s hospital incentive formula now offers six bonus measures, three of them associated with Joint Commission initiatives.

The new Joint Commission recognitions from Anthem and its sister health plans in 13 other states are:

- **Advanced Certification for Palliative Care**, which meets a palliative care bonus measure that Anthem introduced to its Q-HIP Jan. 1. Through Q-HIP, Anthem and its affiliated health plans are the first to offer an incentive to network providers that achieve the certification.
- **Antimicrobial Stewardship recognition**, awarded to Anthem Q-HIP-participating hospitals that are surveyed by The Joint Commission after Jan. 1 and achieve initial or continued accreditation. These participating organizations will automatically earn credit for evidence of an effective antimicrobial stewardship program. Previously, hospitals were required to submit extensive documentation for review and consideration by the Q-HIP program. This recognition will promote patient safety and quality of care and align critical access hospitals and hospitals with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other professional and scientific organizations.

“Anthem is to be commended for recognizing the value that Joint Commission certification and accreditation bring to participating hospitals and their health care teams in demonstrating the highest standards for quality and patient safety in palliative care and antimicrobial stewardship,” said Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. “The true beneficiaries are the patients in Anthem plans who receive care at the Joint Commission-accredited and -certified hospitals that are adhering to the antimicrobial standards and achieving Palliative Care Certification.”

Input sought on proposed certification for Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Centers
Feedback is sought for a new, optional advanced certification for Joint-Commission accredited hospitals that have the capability of providing high-quality endovascular thrombectomy for patients with ischemic stroke. Comments on the proposed requirements for the Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Center (TSC) Advanced Certification program will be gathered through May 29. (Contact: Celeste Pierre, cpiere@jointcommission.org)
Quality and safety

Breathe easy – new hospital respiratory protection research project will help identify challenges
Employee protection from respiratory hazards is an important issue for hospitals, but one that doesn’t
always receive the attention it warrants. In order to address some of the unique challenges associated
with respirator use in real-world clinical settings, The Joint Commission’s Department of Health Services
Research is conducting a year-long respiratory protection project — “Hospital Respiratory Protection
Programs: Usefulness of Resources and Informational Gaps.”

The project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory
(NPPTL), which supported the development of two educational resources in 2015.

However, there are still many unanswered clinical questions related to optimal use of respiratory
protection. The goals of the project are to:

- Assess the perceived usefulness of the 2015 toolkit and monograph related to respiratory
  protection
- Identify clinical situations that may need clarification regarding proper use of respiratory
  protection

The Joint Commission also will solicit practical input from experts using an eight-member technical
advisory panel (TAP) under the leadership of a scientific advisor. The project is not related to
accreditation.

Learn more about the resources and share your organization’s respiratory protection practices in a brief
survey. (Contact: Maria Montero, mmontero@jointcommission.org)

Resources

Free webinar to help organizations understand, implement stronger patient ID practices
Organizations hoping to learn strategies to help strengthen their patient identification practices can benefit
from a free webinar from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, organized by the Partnership for Health IT
Patient Safety and ECRI Institute PSO.

During the webinar, the “Health IT Safe Practice Toolkit on the Safe Use of Health IT for Patient
Identification” will be reviewed. This webinar is designed to help health care leaders implement the steps
outlined in the toolkit. Participants will receive the toolkit, an evidence-based report and implementation
strategies. Space is limited. Register for the webinar.

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
Ambulatory Buzz — Top 10 Challenging Standards for 2016: Frequent AmBuzz readers know it is spring
when The Joint Commission unveils an annual summary of the Top 10 Challenging Standards our
Ambulatory Health Care (AHC) and Office-Based Surgery (OBS) accredited organizations experienced
throughout 2016.

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.