Accreditation and certification

Get ready for spring 2019 updates to E-dition
The Joint Commission will be posting spring 2019 updates to the E-dition® for its accreditation and certification manuals in May.

The changes — which can be viewed on your organization’s Joint Commission Connect® extranet site — are scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2019, unless otherwise noted. Key updates include:

- Revised National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) Standard NPSG.03.05.01 on anticoagulant therapy for the Ambulatory Health Care, Critical Access Hospital, and Hospital and Nursing Care Center accreditation programs.
- Revised NPSG.15.01.01 to focus on reducing the risks of suicide in Behavioral Health Care and Hospital programs.
- Note to clarify applicability of NPSG.15.01.01, element of performance (EP) 1, for the Behavioral Health Care program.
- Clarified note for Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC) Standard PC.03.01.01, EP 5, related to circulating duties in the operating room in the Critical Access Hospital and Hospital programs.
- Deleted Performance Improvement (PI) Standard PI.01.01.01, EP 21, regarding collecting data on the medical necessity and appropriateness of procedures for deemed-status ambulatory surgical centers.

Other changes of note include:

- Revised requirement for participation in a national joint replacement registry for hospitals, critical access hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers that participate in the Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement program.
- Reinstated mechanical thrombectomy eligibility requirements for the Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Center (TSC) and Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) certification programs.
- Two new advanced Disease-specific Care certification programs — Primary Heart Attack Center and Acute Heart Attack Ready.
- A specialty Pharmacy Accreditation option for the Home Care accreditation program.

USA Today highlights proposed requirements aimed at saving pregnant mothers’ lives
The Joint Commission’s newly proposed perinatal safety standards that could potentially save lives and stop fatal childbirth deliveries at U.S. hospitals were the focus of an article in the April 18 USA Today.

The article — “Childbirth safety requirements seek to protect pregnant, new mothers” — stems from The Joint Commission’s announcement on April 17 that it was considering new standards for perinatal care in the Hospital Accreditation Program specifically related to the care of patients experiencing hemorrhage or severe hypertension/preeclampsia.

The proposed standards — which were designed to further promote patient safety and quality of care, and to align the accreditation requirements with current recommendations from scientific, professional and governmental organizations — would affect approximately 2,700 “birthing” hospitals accredited by The Joint Commission.
According to the USA Today article, about 700 women die and 50,000 sustain critical injuries during childbirth in the U.S. The article states that the problem is “particularly acute among black mothers, who die at three to four times the rate of white mothers.”

David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP, executive vice president, Health Care Quality Evaluation, The Joint Commission, who was interviewed for the story, said he believes the proposed requirements may be able have a substantial impact on two of the conditions that are responsible for approximately 40% of childbirth deaths — maternal hemorrhage or severe blood pressure.

Currently, The Joint Commission is asking for feedback from its accredited hospitals on the proposed requirements. The comment period will end on May 29.

Read the USA Today article.

Resources

Deadline April 30 to register for complimentary workshop on new heart attack certifications

Knowledge is crucial to success, and The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association (AHA) are hosting a complimentary workshop May 15-16 to help organizations better understand two new heart attack certifications that launched earlier this year — Primary Heart Attack Center and Acute Heart Attack Ready.

This free workshop — to be held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway in Dallas, Texas — will allow for:

- One-on-one meetings with Joint Commission and AHA staff on May 15 (please note that if you select to participate in these meetings, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment).
- An all-day, hands-on workshop for heart attack centers on May 16 (download the agenda).

While there is no fee to attend this workshop, all hotel and travel-related expenses are the responsibility of the attendees. The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 30.

For questions regarding meeting arrangements, contact Lisa Alicea, senior meeting coordinator, Board Activities and Meeting Management, The Joint Commission, at 630-792-5626 or email BAMMmeeting@jointcommission.org.

Register.

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

Ambulatory Buzz — Top 10 Most Challenging Ambulatory Care and Office-Based Surgery Standards for 2018:

It’s April, so that means it is time for The Joint Commission to share the Top 10 challenging standards for accredited Ambulatory Health Care organizations and Office-Based Surgery practices for 2018. The Joint Commission regularly analyzes standards compliance data to help identify the most common challenges impacting these customers, writes Joyce Webb, project director, Division of Standards and Survey Methods.

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