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Accreditation

Joint Commission schedules webinar on SOC™ process changes for Aug. 10
As of Aug. 1, 2016, changes became effective to the Statement of Conditions™ (SOC) process that affect the survey of Life Safety (LS) chapter requirements.

To help organizations understand these changes and prepare for this transition, The Joint Commission is hosting a live, discussion webinar on Wednesday, Aug. 10, from 9-10 a.m. PT/10-11 a.m. MT/11 a.m.-noon CT/noon-1 p.m. ET. A Q&A session will commence at the conclusion of the formal remarks.

The changes affect open Plan for Improvement (PFI) items, which will no longer be reviewed by the survey team, nor will they be imported into the Final Report. In addition, all LS chapter deficiencies identified during survey will become Requirements for Improvement (RFI) with a 60-day Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC). For those deficiencies that require more than 60 days, a Time-Limited Waiver process is available. Finally, only equivalency requests related to survey events will be reviewed.

Space is limited for this webinar. Registration will close when The Joint Commission has reached maximum capacity. This webinar will be recorded, and a replay of the webinar will be available on The Joint Commission website five to seven business days following the program.

Register for the webinar. (Contact: Gidion Howell, ghowell@jointcommission.org)

Performance measurement

Learn more about new SAFER™ scoring methodology during Aug. 17 webinar
The Joint Commission is hosting a one-hour webinar Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 9 a.m. PT/10 a.m. MT/11 a.m. CT/noon ET to help explain the new Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk™ (SAFER™) scoring methodology. The SAFER Matrix™ allows the organization to see areas of noncompliance at an aggregate level — one that shows significant components of risk analysis. It replaces the current scoring methodology, which is based on pre-determined categorizations of elements of performance (such as direct and indirect impact) — instead allowing surveyors to perform real-time, on-site evaluations of deficiencies. SAFER™ will become effective Jan. 1, 2017.

The SAFER Matrix™ is part of Project REFRESH, The Joint Commission’s multiphase process improvement project. Various aspects of pre-survey, on-site survey, and post-survey activities are being looked at in an effort to:

- Simplify them
- Enhance their relevancy to accredited organizations
- Increase transparency within the accreditation process
- Utilize innovative approaches and technology to enrich the customer experience

Register for the webinar. (Contact: safer@jointcommission.org)
Patient safety

Latest JQPS features article on electronic patient referrals

The system, eReferral, was developed in response to the shortcomings of specialty referral systems in primary care, which can lead to missed and delayed diagnoses. It was piloted for the gastroenterology clinic and then rolled out for medical and surgical specialties across the health care system.

The authors evaluated communication and referral outcomes for patients referred to the gastroenterology clinic through eReferral who were not scheduled for in-person visits. Results showed that for 68 percent of referrals reviewed in the study, patients were not ultimately considered to require in-person gastroenterology clinic appointments or were appropriately redirected for scheduling via other routes. About half of these patients (32 percent of all referrals reviewed) were not scheduled because they were resolved via pre-consultation exchange. Three percent of patients received emergency or hospital care while awaiting resolution of gastroenterology referrals.

Access the article to read more.

In the news

CDC assisting in possible mosquito-transmitted Zika virus case in Florida
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been told by State of Florida officials that cases of Zika virus infection were found that may have been caused by mosquitoes. The cases are likely the first transmissions of Zika virus by local mosquitoes in the U.S. On Monday, Aug. 1, Florida Gov. Rick Scott told reporters the number of cases had reached 14 — 10 more than what was originally known Friday, July 29, when CDC announced it was assisting state officials.

It is likely the cases "occurred several weeks ago in several blocks of Miami," stated Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, director of the CDC, in a July 29 press release.

CDC is working closely with Florida officials during the investigation and has sent a medical epidemiologist to provide assistance.

Resources

New Take 5 podcast on busting myths about sharing info with patients, their families
The Joint Commission, with input from its Patient and Family Advisory Council, recently released a white paper — "Busting the Myths about Engaging Patients and Families in Patient Safety" — the objective of which was to dispel myths about the sharing of information with patients and their families.

Mark A. Crafton, MPA, MT(ASCP), executive director in the department of state and external relations for The Joint Commission, recently sat down for a Take 5 podcast on the paper. In it, he discusses:
- The key myths that are addressed
- How this white paper correlates with The Joint Commission’s mission of getting to zero patient harm

Listen to the podcast. [6:21]
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Right now, organizations can get 25 percent off all Joint Commission Resources periodicals — The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety®, The Source™, Perspectives®, and Environment of Care® News — by using the code SAVE25.

JCR periodicals include articles that will help organizations keep patients safe and stay ahead of the compliance curve. The four periodicals give organizations a direct line to the latest news, ideas and practical solutions from Joint Commission leaders. An online site license also gives organizations access to periodicals for every member of its team.

In addition, periodicals are great ways to find out more information about Project REFRESH:

- Perspectives® will be the first to announce updates associated with Project REFRESH.
- The Source™ will provide organizations with tips, tools and strategies to help integrate changes from Project REFRESH.
- Environment of Care® News will address how Project REFRESH impacts the way organizations manage their physical environment.

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