In this issue
Check out 2017 National Patient Safety Goals
Latest R3 Report details new and revised NPSGs on CAUTIs
New Element of Performance on governing bodies’ legal responsibility for deemed programs
OSHA accepting comments to determine need for workplace violence prevention standard
New blog for IC preventionists: BoosterPak™ on High-Level Disinfection and Sterilization
Joint Commission Online survey results: new features planned for 2017
2016 Upcoming Webinars
The time is now to preorder 2017 accreditation, certification manuals

Editor’s note: Joint Commission Online will not publish on Dec. 21 or Dec. 28. Look for the weekly e-newsletter to return on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Happy holidays!

Patient safety

Check out 2017 National Patient Safety Goals
The 2017 National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) are now available on The Joint Commission’s website. You can download the entire chapter from the accreditation standards manual or easy-to-read versions. Check out the program-specific NPSGs:

- Ambulatory Health Care
- Behavioral Health Care
- Critical Access Hospital
- Home Care
- Hospital
- Laboratory Services
- Nursing Care Centers
- Office-Based Surgery

Latest R3 Report details new and revised NPSGs on CAUTIs
The Joint Commission released an R3 Report Dec. 12 detailing new and revised National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) on catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) that will be effective Jan. 1, 2017.

A new NPSG on CAUTIs will apply to accredited nursing care centers, while a revised NPSGs on CAUTIs will apply to accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals. The revisions were made to align the NPSGs with current scientific evidence as documented in the 2014 update to A Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals.

CAUTIs are the most common hospital-associated infections (HAI), and 70-80 percent of these infections are attributable to an indwelling urethral catheter. Catheter use also is associated with negative outcomes other than infection, including:

- Nonbacterial urethral inflammation
- Urethral strictures
- Mechanical trauma
- Mobility impairment

Read more in the R3 Report.
Accreditation

New Element of Performance on governing bodies' legal responsibility for deemed programs
The Joint Commission has created an element of performance (EP) in the Leadership chapter for all deemed programs, so that a consistent process can be used to cite issues related to the governing body’s failure in carrying out its responsibilities.

Currently, Leadership (LD) standard LD.01.03.01 states that the governing body/governance “is ultimately accountable for the safety and quality of care, treatment, or services.” However, there is no specific EP pertaining to the governing body’s legal responsibility.

Effective Jan. 9, 2017, LD.01.03.01, EP 12, which states the governing body “assumes full legal responsibility for the operation” of the organization, which currently applies to deemed-status home health agencies and hospices, will be applied to the other deemed programs:
- Hospitals
- Critical access hospitals
- Ambulatory surgical centers

View the prepublication standards.

Public policy

OSHA accepting comments to determine need for workplace violence prevention standard
On Dec. 7, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Request for Information (RFI): Preventing Workplace Violence in Healthcare and Social Assistance Services in the Federal Register. This RFI solicits information to determine the need for a standard to protect health care and social assistance workers from workplace violence. Questions also solicit input on various aspects of violence prevention programs and strategies. Comments are being accepted by mail, fax or hand delivery, as well as at www.regulations.gov until April 6, 2017.

According to a recent Government Accountability Office report, the rate of workplace violence against health care employees is higher than the rest of private industry.

OSHA is also hosting a stakeholder meeting on Jan. 10, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building Great Hall, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington D.C., 20210, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Register for the meeting.

Earlier this year, The Joint Commission created a Workplace Violence Prevention web portal, with resources for health care organizations.

Communications

New blog for IC preventionists: BoosterPak™ on High-Level Disinfection and Sterilization
The New Year is quickly approaching, and if you’re in charge of your organization’s high-level disinfection and sterilization efforts, The Joint Commission’s Standards BoostersPak™ on High-Level Disinfection (HLD) should be on the top of your wish list this holiday season.

In the latest On Infection Prevention & Control blog post, “Make Infection Control Improvement your 2017 Resolution,” Lisa Waldowski, MS, APRN, CIC, the enterprise infection control specialist at The Joint Commission, details the BoosterPak™ for HLD and sterilization.

This newest blog from The Joint Commission — On Infection Prevention & Control — covers experiences, case studies and news for infection preventionists.
Joint Commission Online survey results: new features planned for 2017
The results of a Joint Commission Online readership survey conducted this fall reveal that most readers are satisfied with this weekly newsletter. Of the 553 respondents, nearly 94 percent read the newsletter at least every two weeks, and approximately 89 percent find the content useful or very useful.

Just about 84 percent of respondents would like to see more stories about new and updated standards, while nearly 64 percent would like to see more articles on patient safety issues and on-site surveys.

In 2017, readers can expect to see some changes in response to their comments, including:
• Articles detailing challenging standards and ways to get into compliance
• A Q&A column on Environment of Care and Life Safety topics
• An events and webinar calendar

(Contact: Jon DePaolis, jdepaolis@jointcommission.org)

Joint Commission Resources

The time is now to preorder 2017 accreditation, certification manuals
With 2016 winding down, get a head start on next year by preordering the 2017 Joint Commission accreditation and certification manuals. There are significant changes ahead for Joint Commission-accredited and -certified health care organizations, including the Project REFRESH initiative and how standards are scored on-site with the new Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk™ (SAFER™) matrix.

The 2017 manuals include all the 2016 updates, as well as the key information organizations need to achieve and maintain continuous standards compliance and experience operational improvement. 
Preorder the manuals.

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