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Accreditation and certification

Revisions continue for Life Safety, Environment of Care chapters

The Joint Commission has revised additional EC and LS requirements for the hospital, critical access hospital, hospice, and ambulatory surgery center deemed-status programs. These revisions, which become effective Jan. 1, 2018, address:

- Testing of emergency lighting systems
- Inspection and testing of piped medical gas and vacuum systems
- Updating pertinent NFPA code numbering in references
- Adding more specificity to existing elements of performance (EPs)

View the prepublication standards. (Contact: Kenneth A. Monroe, kmonroe@jointcommission.org)

FSA tool offline Dec. 29-Jan. 15 for standards update
The Focused Standards Assessment (FSA) tool on the Intracycle Monitoring (ICM) Profile will be offline for the January 2018 standards update, starting Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. CT, and will resume Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. CT.

An extension date of Jan. 29 will be applied for accredited organizations with a scheduled ICM submission due date during that period to allow additional time to review any changes made to standards displayed in the open FSA tool.

Questions may be directed to your organization’s account executive.

Reminder: Do not offer Joint Commission surveyors/reviewers gifts
As a reminder, The Joint Commission’s gift policy prohibits reviewers and surveyors from accepting any gifts related to accreditation. This policy is designed to ensure the integrity of The Joint Commission’s decision process, as well as to ensure independence in business judgment.

Joint Commission employees involved with the accreditation and certification decision process cannot accept any gift of value from a surveyed/reviewed or accredited/certified organization.
Gifts can include anything of value given to or by Joint Commission employees, such as:

- Cash
- Gratuities
- Meals
- Gift certificates
- Tickets to sporting, cultural, community or performance events
- Favors (specially arranged for the recipient and not commonly offered to everyone)
- Discounts
- Free services
- Space
- Equipment
- Loans
- Education
- Lodging
- Transportation

A modest on-site meal is acceptable. Also, gifts do not constitute emergency health care, security or safety provisions to protect staff while on-site for consultation or survey/review.

If an organization feels it necessary to provide something, promotional mementos and souvenirs of nominal value (such as a coffee mug or pen with an organization’s logo) are not considered gifts. Those types of items can be accepted if given after the survey or review and when there is no apparent attempt to influence a business decision. (Contact: Fran Carroll, fcarroll@jointcommission.org)

Quality and safety

Modern Healthcare Q&A: Dr. Chassin details Joint Commission’s role in quality improvement

Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president and chief executive officer of The Joint Commission, recently sat down with a reporter from Modern Healthcare for a Q&A about The Joint Commission’s mission and how it works with organizations to improve quality and safety in the health care industry.

During the course of the interview, Dr. Chassin touches on the four things that The Joint Commission does that sets it apart from other organizations, such as:

- Using rigorous evidence-based processes to set quality and safety standards.
- Accrediting organizations across the entire continuum of care.
- Moving beyond traditional accreditation standards and survey methods, applying the most modern improvement techniques to create solutions to quality and safety problems.
- Evaluating The Joint Commission’s impact and publishing the results in peer-reviewed scientific literature.

Learn more about The Joint Commission’s mission to improve health care safety and quality — as well as more information about the survey process — in the Modern Healthcare article (login required to view).

Additionally, Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission, recently penned a blog post detailing The Joint Commission’s role as an accreditor and quality improvement organization.

December JQPS: Airway rapid response team contributes to successful airway management

Failure to properly manage a patient’s airway may result in death or brain injury. At the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, a new airway rapid response (ARR) team was created to bring personnel and equipment to the patient bedside for multidisciplinary airway assessment and rescue. Its success is the focus of a new study in the December 2017 issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety.

The article — “An Airway Rapid Response System: Implementation and Utilization in a Large Academic Trauma Center,” by Joshua H. Atkins, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology and
Critical Care, and Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and co-authors — details how an ARR system was designed after a review revealed that ad hoc processes contributed to delays in assembling the surgical team and tracheostomy equipment after emergency intubation attempts had failed.

After the ARR system was implemented for 40 months, the study authors analyzed 117 events in which the ARR team was called. They found that a definitive airway was secured in all patients for whom the team attempted airway management.

The article and an accompanying editorial are open access on the JQPS website.

Other articles in the December issue are:

- “Using Bioinformatics to Treat Hospitalized Smokers: Successes and Challenges of a Tobacco Treatment Service”
- “Using Lean Quality Improvement Tools to Increase Delivery of Evidence-Based Tobacco Use Treatment in Hospitalized Neurosurgical Patients”
- “Development of Patient-Centered Disability Status Questions to Address Equity in Care”
- “Can We Do That Here? Establishing the Scope of Surgical Practice at a New Safety-Net Community Hospital Through a Transparent, Collaborative Review of Physician Privileges”
- “Pragmatic Insights on Patient Safety Priorities and Intervention Strategies in Ambulatory Settings”
- “Improving the Quality of Data for Inpatient Claims-Based Measures Used in Public Reporting and Pay-for-Performance Programs”
- “User-Centered Collaborative Design and Development of an Inpatient Safety Dashboard”

Read JQPS.

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