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Editor’s note: Joint Commission Online will not publish on Dec. 23 or Dec. 30. Look for the weekly e-newsletter to return on Wednesday, Jan. 6. Happy holidays!

Quality and safety

Joint Commission president contributes to National Patient Safety Foundation report
The Joint Commission President Dr. Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, was among a group of experts who recently contributed to the National Patient Safety Foundation’s recently released report — “Free from Harm: Accelerating Patient Safety Improvement Fifteen Years after To Err Is Human” — assessing the state of patient safety.

View the report and other materials, including an executive summary.

Joint Commission presents 2015 Enterprise Champion for Quality Award to BrightStar Care®
The Joint Commission presented the 2015 Enterprise Champion for Quality award to BrightStar Care, recognizing the national private duty home care and medical staffing franchise for its efforts to promote the delivery of high-quality care to its franchisees through Joint Commission accreditation.

It’s the third consecutive year the award was given to BrightStar Care, which has more than 300 locations that provide skilled and non-medical home care to families and staffing services to health care facilities. Its 24/7 services include companionship, personal care, dementia care, transportation, medication set-ups and reminders, and skilled nursing care.

“We grow our brand one family at a time,” said Shelly Sun, CEO and co-founder of BrightStar Care. “To do that successfully and have a great reputation throughout local communities and across the country, we have to make sure that our quality standards are the absolute highest. I don’t know how you get higher than earning Joint Commission accreditation.”

Learn more about the Enterprise Champion for Quality Award.

Accreditation

California senate announces new regulations for unlicensed outpatient surgery settings
California Senate Bill 396 — designed to strengthen regulation of unlicensed outpatient surgery settings — was signed into law in September and is effective Jan. 1, 2016.

It builds upon existing regulatory requirements that mandate facility accreditation of ambulatory surgery centers and office-based surgery practices that are neither state licensed nor Medicare certified. It also affects Joint Commission-accredited ambulatory surgery centers and office-based surgery practices by requiring peer reviews and unannounced inspections.
The peer review evaluation must occur every two years and be performed by practitioners who are qualified by education and experience to perform the same or similar types of procedures. The findings of that peer review must be evaluated by the facility's governing body. In addition, the result of the peer review(s) must be provided to The Joint Commission at the time of the organization’s on-site survey. The Joint Commission surveyor will review the process of any findings to determine if the practice continues to maintain compliance with applicable accreditation requirements (see table).

The law allows, and provides specifications for, accrediting organizations to conduct unannounced surveys following an initial survey. Accrediting organizations that elect to conduct a routine unannounced survey are required to notify the outpatient setting that the survey will occur within 60 days. In accordance with Joint Commission policies, accredited office-based surgery practices and non-Medicare-certified ambulatory surgery centers are exempt from The Joint Commission’s unannounced survey policy and receive a seven-business day notification of their scheduled survey event.

The new law also increases an organization’s ability to access information from the state medical board regarding whether or not a physician:

- Has been denied staff privileges
- Has been removed from the medical staff
- Had privileges revoked prior to granting or renewing their privileges

(Contact: Jennifer Hoppe, jhoppe@jointcommission.org)

**Resources**

**Trending on jointcommission.org**

- **Quick Safety** — [Alleviating ED boarding of psychiatric patients](https://www.jointcommission.org/quick-safety-issue-19-brief/): Issue 19 of *Quick Safety* covers the challenge of providing appropriate and timely care to all psychiatric patients in both metropolitan and rural hospitals, with the goal to help alleviate boarding.

**New Standards BoosterPak™ on High-Level Disinfection (HLD) and sterilization now available**

A new [Standards BoosterPak™ on High-Level Disinfection (HLD) and Sterilization](https://www.jointcommission.org/standards-boosterpak-high-level-disinfection/) is available to Joint Commission-accredited organizations. BoosterPaks can be accessed on the secure Joint Commission Connect Extranet.

The goal of the HLD and Sterilization BoosterPak is to ensure practices are carried out following regulatory standards and evidence-based guidelines for HLD and sterilization in order to minimize the potential risk of infection transmission to patients.
Joint Commission Resources

Don’t wait till the New Year to get up-to-date manuals from JCR
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- Manuals and related resources
- Publications

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