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Accreditation

Feedback sought on proposed revisions to credentialing, privileging standards
The Joint Commission is revising its credentialing and privileging standards for contract services in the Hospital, Critical Access Hospital, Ambulatory Health Care, Office-based Surgery, Nursing Care Center and the Behavioral Health Care Accreditation programs. These revisions update, clarify or consolidate the existing requirements, as well as develop a potential new element of performance (EP) that addresses credentialing and privileging requirements — EP 26 — previously covered under a note to EP 4.

For hospitals and critical access hospitals, a new EP 27 has been added that addresses providing contracted organizations with practitioner performance information.

The Joint Commission is seeking input on these revisions through March 21. Comment now.

R³ Report on revised outcome measures standard for behavioral health care
The latest issue of R³ Report covers new requirements now in effect for Care, Treatment, and Services (CTS) standard CTS.03.01.09, which is applicable to all Joint Commission-accredited behavioral health care organizations.

This standard, which has always required organizations to assess outcomes of care, treatment or services, now requires organizations to accomplish this through the use of a standardized tool or instrument. Feedback derived through these standardized instruments may be used to:
- Inform goals and objectives.
- Monitor individual progress.
- Inform decisions related to individual plans for care, treatment or services.

Aggregate data from the tools also may be used for organizational performance improvement efforts, as well as to evaluate outcomes of care, treatment or services provided to the population(s) served.

Read the latest R³ Report.

Quality and safety

JQPS: New study IDs successful approaches to antimicrobial stewardship programs
To combat the threat of resistance to antibiotics, The Joint Commission developed requirements for hospitals to have antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs). As implementing ASPs, however, remains a challenge for many hospitals, a new study in the February issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety (JQPS) identifies common characteristics and innovative strategies among ASPs leading the way.
The article — “The Expanding Role of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Hospitals in the United States: Lessons Learned from a Multisite Qualitative Study,” by Shashi N. Kapadia, MD, instructor in medicine and in healthcare policy and research, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York City, and co-authors — reports on findings from interviews with 12 program leaders at four prominent ASPs in the United States.

The interview questions focused on ASP implementation, program structure, strengths and weaknesses, lessons learned, and future directions. The authors identified three major themes that emerged from the data for successful approaches to ASPs:

- Evolution from a top-down structure to a more diffuse approach involving unit-based pharmacists, multidisciplinary staff and shared responsibility for antimicrobial prescribing under the ASPs' leadership.
- Integration of information technology systems to enable real-time interventions to optimize antimicrobial therapy and patient management.
- Barriers to technology integration including limited resources for data analysis and poor interoperability between software systems.

The article is available online for free to the public, along with an invitation from the Journal's Editor-in-Chief David W. Baker, MD, MPH, for papers on innovative approaches to antimicrobial stewardship in hospitals, nursing care centers and other settings.

Other articles in the February 2018 issue include:

- “Temporal Trends in Fall Rates with the Implementation of a Multifaceted Fall Prevention Program: Persistence Pays Off” (University of California, Los Angeles)
- “Surveysing Care Teams after In-Hospital Deaths to Identify Preventable Harm and Opportunities to Improve Advance Care Planning” (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston)
- “A Novel Bedside-Focused Ward Surveillance and Response System” (Kaweah Delta Health Care District, Visalia, California)
- “An Initiative to Change Inpatient Practice: Leveraging the Patient Medical Home for Post-Discharge Follow-Up” (VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, California)
- “Who’s Covering This Patient?’ Developing a First-Contact Provider (FCP) Designation in an Electronic Health Record” (University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago)

Access JQPS.

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
Quality in Nursing Center Care — 2018 National Patient Safety Goals Address MDROs, CAUTI in Nursing Care Centers: Two new standards for nursing care centers are the newest component of The Joint Commission’s National Patient Safety Goals for 2018, according to a blog penned by The Joint Commission’s Standards Interpretation Group.

Joint Commission Resources

New CJCP® Exam Preparation Workbook features two practice exams
The CJCP® Exam Preparation Workbook, Fourth Edition, is now available for Certified Joint Commission Professional® (CJCP®) candidates preparing for the exam. The two practice exams and answer keys were updated to reflect the most current Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Program requirements, including revisions from the EP Review Project and updated Life Safety Code® requirements.
Key features of this Joint Commission Resources workbook include:

- Description of the examination process
- Test-taking strategies
- 300 practice questions with detailed answer keys

CJCP® is only available to candidates working domestically within the United States. Those who purchase the print product of the *CJCP® Examination Preparation Workbook*, Fourth Edition, also will automatically receive it as an e-book in a PDF format.

Learn more.