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Performance measurement

Report: Joint Commission project reduces number of monthly falls for field staff
The 2015 issue of International Journal of Six Sigma and Competitive Advantage includes an article about the results of a Joint Commission project that successfully reduced the average number of monthly falls of Joint Commission field staff by 64.8 percent and has sustained the results for four years.

The authors of the article — “Applying Lean Six Sigma tools to reduce the rate of slips, trips and falls for Joint Commission field staff”— present how the Lean Six Sigma DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) methodology and change management tools were used to reduce the rate of slips, trips and falls for Joint Commission field staff who travel frequently and visit health care organizations across the U.S. The data sources included workers’ compensation claims data, as well as an online survey administered to field staff who reported slips, trips and falls.

Multiple risk factors associated with the field staff consist of environmental factors and individual behaviors. Targeted solutions included: seasonal emails to staff to raise awareness of wearing the proper footwear and changing weather conditions; and an informational pamphlet about the risks associated with walking surface conditions, carrying work-related or personal items, and type of luggage used. According to the report, by implementing the interventions, the average monthly rate of field staff falls was successfully reduced by 64.8 percent during the post-intervention period. Access the article.

People

Joint Commission names Ronald Wyatt first patient safety officer
The Joint Commission has announced the appointment of Ronald M. Wyatt, MD, MHA, to the newly created position of patient safety officer, reflecting the organization’s commitment to promoting a safe and high-quality health care system with a goal of zero patient harm.

Wyatt also will continue to serve as The Joint Commission’s medical director in the Division of Healthcare Improvement, a position he has held since he joined the organization in 2012. In his new role, effective immediately, he will focus on health care quality and patient safety at both the organizational level — including patients, practitioners, staff and leadership — and the health-care system level. In addition, he will promote quality improvement and patient safety to internal and external stakeholders, as well as expand The Joint Commission’s role as an influencer in public policy and legislation.

“Patient safety is a core value at The Joint Commission and central to our goal of zero patient harm,” said Ana Pujols-McKee, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer, The Joint Commission. “The creation of this new position and the appointment of a recognized patient safety expert like Dr. Wyatt
exemplifies our commitment and ensures we will continue to make great progress in the areas of quality and patient safety.”

During his time at The Joint Commission, Wyatt has led several important patient-safety initiatives. He was instrumental in renaming the former Office of Quality Monitoring to the Office of Quality and Patient Safety to better reflect the primary focus on patient safety. He has collaborated in the development of National Patient Safety Goals, Sentinel Event Alerts, and Quick Safety publications, and oversees data management and analyses in his division. He has a particular interest in disparity, equity and professionalism in health care.

“I am deeply honored to be named The Joint Commission’s first patient safety officer,” Wyatt said. “This is an outward sign of our steadfast commitment to the goal of zero harm for all patients, and I look forward to working side-by-side with our accredited organizations to make that goal a reality.”

Wyatt, a board-certified internist licensed in Alabama, came to The Joint Commission with a wealth of patient safety experience. He served on the Food and Drug Administration Drug Safety Oversight Board and as a mentor to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation Advisors program at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Wyatt also served as director of the Patient Safety Analysis Center for the Department of Defense Military Health System. He continues to serve as The Joint Commission representative on the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. He was named one of Becker’s Hospital Review Top 50 Patient Safety Experts in the United States in 2013 and 2014.

Wyatt earned his medical degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed residency at St. Louis University Hospital, where he served as chief resident in the Department of Internal Medicine. Wyatt earned the Executive Master of Science in Health Administration (MSHA) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 2000, the Morehouse School of Medicine conferred Wyatt with an honorary Doctor of Medical Sciences degree. He was a George W. Merck Fellow with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement 2009-2010. He also completed a Harvard School of Public Health program in Clinical Effectiveness.

**Patient safety and quality**

**Deadline extended for comments on revised OSHA guidelines**
The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced the deadline for submitting public comments on the revised Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines has been extended through Feb. 22.

The draft guidelines aim to give employers and workers a sound, flexible framework for addressing safety and health issues in the workplace. Revisions include:

- A proactive approach to finding and fixing hazards prior to incidents
- Improved safety and health spanning all types of workplaces
- Help for small- and medium-sized businesses to effectively protect their workers
- Increased worker involvement
- Better communication and coordination on multi-employer worksites

The guidelines are advisory only and do not create any new legal obligations or alter existing obligations created by OSHA standards or regulations. Submit comments [here](#).

**Resources**

**JCR to host conferences March 29-April 1 in Las Vegas**
What happens in Vegas won’t stay in Vegas — and that’s by design. Joint Commission Resources will host conferences March 29-April 1 in Las Vegas. While blackjack and roulette won’t be on the docket, these conferences will include information targeted at helping organizations improve on patient safety and care, and intended to be shared with others within their hospitals and ambulatory care facilities.

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The planned conferences are:

- Hospital CMS Basics – learn skills to help navigate Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Conditions of Participation
- Environment of Care Base Camp – get safety and quality insights from Joint Commission engineers
- Ambulatory Care Accreditation Essentials – find out practical solutions and tips for Joint Commission requirements
- Hospital Accreditation Essentials – better understand how to create and implement sustainable solutions that comply with Joint Commission requirements
- Orthopedic Certification: Core & Advanced Programs – a brand new seminar that will provide practical strategies and implementation tips

Learn more about the conferences.

Trending on jointcommission.org
Standards FAQ — Individualized Quality Control Plan (IQCP) Requirement: Find out if IQCP is required for Joint Commission accredited laboratories.

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