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JQPS highlights hospital with sustained success in Joint Commission’s Top Performer program

The February 2016 issue of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety includes an article — “Sustaining Reliability on Accountability Measures at The Johns Hopkins Hospital” — by Peter J. Pronovost, MD, PhD, and coauthors. The article details how Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH), in Baltimore, sustained its success in earning recognition from The Joint Commission’s Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® program for performance in both 2012 and 2013. The article’s focus on sustainability is reflected in a step-by-step, how-to guide for other hospitals to use in developing or improving upon their own sustainability processes.

The hospital’s leadership challenged the health system to reliably deliver best practice care linked to nationally vetted core measures to achieve Top Performer recognition and the Delmarva Foundation award. In response, the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine implemented an initiative to ensure that 96 percent or more of patients received care linked to measures. Nine low-performing process measures were targeted for improvement — eight Joint Commission accountability measures and one Delmarva Foundation core measure.

Read more about the article or see other topics covered in this month’s issue of JQPS by viewing the news release.

Accreditation

Prepublication standards: check out Opioid Treatment Programs update, effective July 1

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently issued an update to its 2007 guidelines for the accreditation of Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs). The Joint Commission has developed a number of new elements of performance and edited several requirements to maintain alignment with the guidelines, which go into effect July 1.

View the prepublication standards.

In the news

CDC, WHO offer resources on Zika virus

On the heels of the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the spread of the Zika virus an international emergency Feb. 1, both WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have compiled resources and information on the virus for physicians and patients.

Zika is a disease caused by a virus that is acquired through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, per the CDC. Symptoms can last anywhere from a few days to a week. A severe reaction that would require hospitalization is at this point uncommon, the CDC states on its website.
The first confirmed case of the virus was in May 2015 in Brazil, and the CDC has issued warnings to travelers of that region, as well as countries where the virus is present. The CDC reports that more than 30 cases have been confirmed in the United States in returning travelers.

According to the Dallas County Health and Human Services, the CDC confirmed Feb. 2 the first case in the U.S. of the Zika virus being acquired through "sexual transmission."

“The patient was infected with the virus after having sexual contact with an ill individual who returned from a country where Zika virus is present,” the statement read.

For resources, visit the CDC’s or the WHO’s dedicated sections on the Zika virus.

Resources

Free webinar: learn more about Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement certification
Learn more about The Joint Commission’s new advanced certification program for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement at a complimentary, one-hour webinar at 10 a.m. PT, 11 a.m. MT, noon CT, 1 p.m. ET Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Attendees can earn 1.0 continuing education credit from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Learn more about the CE credit opportunities and register.

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