Accreditation and certification

Check out requirements for 2 new Disease-Specific Care Certification programs for heart attack care

The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association (AHA) have developed two new Advanced Disease-Specific Care certification programs for ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) heart attack patient care.

The Primary Heart Attack Center (PHAC) and the Acute Heart Attack Ready (AHAR) Certification programs will be available for hospitals (including freestanding emergency departments) and critical access hospitals, effective July 1, 2019. Both certification programs will standardize and improve coordinated systems of care across settings for identification, assessment, monitoring, management, data sharing and performance improvement for multidisciplinary STEMI heart attack care.

The PHAC certification program focuses on symptom onset and first medical contact (specifically prehospital and upon hospital arrival), emergency medical services, and the emergency department, as well as catheterization laboratories and inpatient settings. Any hospital participating in this program is required to provide on-site primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) coverage for STEMI patients 24/7.

Excluding the notable differences in prehospital and hospital arrival care, the AHAR certification program focuses on the same criteria, and includes catheterization laboratories only if applicable. This program is recommended for those hospitals without 24/7 on-site primary PCI coverage. An AHAR hospital may transfer STEMI patients to a primary PCI-capable hospital for care.

View the prepublication standards:

- [Primary Heart Attack Center](#)
- [Acute Heart Attack Ready](#)

Effective now: Revision to note at PC.03.01.01, EP 5 for hospitals, critical access hospitals

In order to further clarify the performance of circulatory duties in the operating room, The Joint Commission has revised the note for Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC) standard PC.03.01.01, element of performance (EP) 5 for the Hospital and Critical Access Hospital Accreditation programs.

The additional edits, which are effective immediately, will appear in the July 1, 2019 update to E-dition, as well as in the update of the 2019 accreditation manuals.

View the prepublication standards:

- [Hospital](#)
- [Critical Access Hospital](#)
Quality and safety

New Quick Safety details de-escalation techniques for health care settings
There is a growing need for care staff to learn de-escalation techniques in light of more and more violence occurring in health care settings.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted a rise in workplace violence, with the greatest increases occurring against nurses and nursing assistants. An American Journal of Nursing study found 25 percent of nurses reported being assaulted by patients or the patient’s family members.

A new issue of Quick Safety highlights de-escalation — which is a first-line response to potential violence and aggression — and presents models and interventions for managing aggressive and agitated patients in the emergency department (ED) and inpatient settings.

Read Quick Safety.

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
- **Dateline @ TJC** — National Patient Safety Goal Expands Focus on Suicide Prevention: To assist health care organizations in improving and saving patients’ lives, The Joint Commission recently revised National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 15.01.01 on reducing the risk for suicide, which will be implemented on July 1, 2019, for hospitals and behavioral health care organizations.
- **Ambulatory Buzz** — Language Access: Improve Health Outcomes for Limited English Proficient Patients: Language access rules and regulations have significantly strengthened as public policy related to medical insurance coverage as well as federal and state funding requirements evolve throughout the United States. Furthermore, patient rights and awareness, along with community health care advocacy efforts, have increased the need for health care organizations — including ambulatory care providers — to deliver complaint interpretation (spoken word) and translation (written word) solutions.
- **Quality in Nursing Center Care** — Revised NCC Pain Assessment and Management Standards: Effective July 1, 2019, new and revised pain assessment and management standards will be applicable to Joint Commission-accredited nursing care centers organizations.

Joint Commission Resources

New JCR book makes infection prevention and control easy to understand
A new book from Joint Commission Resources serves as a practical guide in making infection prevention and control (IC) easy to understand for any and all health care professionals.

“IC Made Easy: Your Key to Understanding Infection Prevention and Control” has downloadable, customizable tools that readers can use in their own health care organizations. It covers Joint Commission and Joint Commission International (JCI) infection prevention and control requirements and provides an overview of the accreditation process.

Some of the key areas covered include:
- The accreditation process, including the on-site survey and tracer methodology.
• Risk assessment and the development of an effective program to help mitigate IC issues.
• The prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract, surgical site, central line-associated and other infections.
• The continuing problem of health care-associated infections, including suggestions for conquering the perennial challenge of consistent hand hygiene among staff.
• The safety of medical equipment, devices, and supplies, including reprocessing.
• Infection control and prevention in the environment of care.

Purchase the book.

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