Quality and safety

New Sentinel Event Alert on managing risks of direct oral anticoagulants

Anticoagulants have been named the No. 2 top medication involved in error incidents causing death or serious harm. While direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) offer ease of use to patients, stopping bleeding events in patients on DOACs is more complicated, requiring different strategies than those for patients on warfarin (Coumadin®) and heparin.

In response to the increase in adverse events related to these widely prescribed medications, a new Sentinel Event Alert has been issued on managing the risks of DOACs. This alert:

- Provides guidance on safe use and management of DOACs.
- Stresses understanding of the risks, benefits, side effects, and potential antidotes or reversal agents for all kinds of anticoagulants.

View the alert, as well as an accompanying infographic on “10 ways to be prepared to treat patients on direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs).”

Accreditation and certification

Comment now on new, revised standards for substance use disorder treatment

After receiving input from behavioral health care professionals, providers and subject matter experts, The Joint Commission has developed and revised standards for organizations that provide substance use disorder treatment in the Behavioral Health Care Accreditation program.

The proposed requirements address quality and safety issues, including:

- Admissions to facilities without comprehensive assessment to determine the level of care needed to treat patients.
- Inadequate treatment and discharge planning.
- Inappropriate use of drug testing.

The Joint Commission is interested in your feedback on the new and revised standards. The comment period will close on Sept. 10.

Comment now. (Contact: Meghann Adams, madams@jointcommission.org)

Webinar series aims to improve NCCs in antipsychotic medication use, rehospitalization

In an effort to help nursing care centers improve in the performance measurement areas of antipsychotic medication use and rehospitalizations, a new webinar series has been developed for nursing care center leaders, managers and point-of-care staff.
The Joint Commission launched a new performance measure dashboard for its accredited nursing care centers to help identify important quality targets, as well as to assist organizations in identifying where their performance lags and leads.

This webinar series will expand on that and provide an opportunity for all accredited nursing care centers to learn from high-performing organizations. Four organizations will share their best practices and lessons learned in achieving and sustaining their impressive outcomes.

The webinars will be conducted on:
- Antipsychotic Medication Use — 1-2 p.m. CT on Tuesday, Aug. 13
  - Presenters: The Palms Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center & Chaparral Foundation
- Rehospitalizations — 11 a.m.-noon CT on Wednesday, Sept. 4
  - Presenters: Consulate Healthcare of Port Charlotte and Long Island Care Center

Register.

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

Ambulatory Buzz — Here's the Who, What, When, Where and Why on PCMH Standards Changes: Five Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) requirements were deleted and seven others were revised. The deleted elements of performance (EPs) include several that required the use of computerized order entry for specific types of orders. EPs that address self-management goals, e-prescribing, results tracking and information to be documented in the clinical record were revised. The new standards changes are applicable to accredited ambulatory care organizations that use optional PCMH certification, writes Joyce Webb, RN, BSN, MBA, project director, Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation.

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