Accreditation

New R³ Report focuses on new housing support services standards for behavioral health care

Effective housing support services can change how homeless individuals perceive and attend to their health care priorities. To help improve the quality and safety of care for this population, an R³ Report was released by The Joint Commission that addresses new behavioral health care accreditation standards for housing support services programs.

Research shows that homeless populations in the United States experience a mortality rate 3 to 4 times that of the general population. Most chronically homeless individuals have multiple disabilities, including serious mental illness, chronic medical conditions and substance use disorders.

The R³ Report states that when individuals are healthier, there is a reduction in emergency room visits and the need for other medical services. This can result in major cost savings.

"Research shows that when an individual’s housing needs are met and secure, improvement can often be made in other areas of the individual’s life, indicating a strong connection between secure housing and improved health,” said Lynn Berry, MLA, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, The Joint Commission. "Our new standards are designed to help behavioral health care organizations that already provide housing support services to ‘raise the bar’ and improve the quality and safety of the care, treatment and services they provide to individuals in need of housing assistance.”

The Joint Commission’s housing support services standards require accredited behavioral health care organizations that provide these services to:

- Obtain information on the individual’s housing preferences and place the individual into affordable housing that meets all applicable safety regulations.
- Work to establish regular face-to-face meetings between the individual and staff, and encourage the individual’s participation in social, behavioral and/or physical care, treatment or services.
- Provide assistance with move-in and securing essential furniture and appliances, and facilitate the individual’s access to behavioral and/or physical care, treatment or services.
- Encourage staff to use evidence-based or accepted case management practices and communication and advocacy skills, as well as to be knowledgeable about Fair Housing rules and regulations.

View the R³ Report.
Patient safety

Joint Commission EVP presenting at March 22 webinar about care transitions
Ana Pujols McKee, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer at The Joint Commission, will be speaking during a Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) webinar on care transitions from noon-1 p.m. CT on Wednesday, March 22.

Also presenting is Kevin Weiss, MD, MPH, senior vice president for institutional accreditation for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The webinar — Themes in Care Transitions from the CLER National Report — will:

- Identify key CLER findings related to care transitions
- Discuss the four major areas of care transitions
  - Resident, fellow and faculty member awareness of the care transitions priorities
  - Knowledge of care transitions terminology and methods
  - Engagement in care transitions improvement activities
  - Involvement in developing and implementing strategies for care transitions
- Consider what actions physician leaders can take to impact care transitions

Register.

Joint Commission partners with CDC to make dialysis safer; celebrates National Kidney Month
Just in time for National Kidney Month – March – The Joint Commission is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and numerous kidney and dialysis organizations to reduce the number of bloodstream infections in dialysis patients. The Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition encourages the implementation of interventions developed by the CDC, which have proven to reduce the number of bloodstream infections by half. Each year, about 37,000 people get potentially deadly bloodstream infections related to their dialysis treatment, according to the CDC.

In addition to promoting the use of CDC’s Core Interventions for Dialysis Bloodstream Infection Prevention, coalition partners have committed to raising awareness among patients and health care providers about the importance of infection prevention, and sharing best practices. The coalition is also working with dialysis delivery organizations to accelerate the implementation of CDC recommendations. (Contact: Kristen Witalka, kwitalka@jointcommission.org)

People

Laboratory Accreditation program has new leader in Hurley
The Joint Commission recently appointed Heather Hurley to the position of executive director of Laboratory Business Development. In this leadership role, Hurley will be responsible for leading business strategies and activities, including the development and implementation of products and services, for The Joint Commission’s Laboratory Accreditation program — which accredits approximately 1,500 U.S. organizations that provide clinical and reference laboratory services.

Hurley also will lead The Joint Commission’s Laboratory Professional Technical and Advisory Committee, Advisory Council and similar groups, as well as serve as liaison to associations, collaborative partners, and accrediting and regulatory bodies in the laboratory field. She will provide technical oversight and assistance in support of the development of laboratory accreditation manuals, standards, education programs and other accreditation-related materials.

Hurley has more than 13 years of commercial experience in the life sciences market. Most recently, she was the director of sales for the Life Science Reagent Business Unit at Affymetrix, Inc., Santa Clara, California. She has a bachelor’s degree in biological science from Ohio University.
Resources

Up in blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- **Ambulatory Buzz** — [Improve Your Center’s Infection Control & Prevention Processes!](#) Breaches in high-level disinfection (HLD) and/or sterilization processes are the No. 1 threat to patient health and safety in ambulatory care organizations, according to Lisa Waldowski, infection control specialist with The Joint Commission.

- **Dateline @ TJC** — [Here’s How We Roll: Patient Safety Awareness Week 2017](#): In recognition of Patient Safety Awareness Week, Ann Scott Blouin, RN, PhD, FACHE, executive vice president of customer relations, wrote about The Joint Commission’s plethora of assets to promote safe patient care.

RSVP now for June 8 Stroke Certification Conference

Stroke professionals will want to save the date for The Joint Commission’s Stroke Certification Conference on June 8. The conference will take place at the Westin Lombard, in Lombard, Illinois.

The one-day program is designed for those who are responsible for achieving and maintaining Joint Commission Stroke Certification. Participants can select one of four tracks to delve deeper into their specific area:

- Acute Stroke Ready Hospital (ASRH)
- Primary Stroke Centers (PSC)
- Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSC)
- Stroke Certification 101: An Introduction to ASRH, PSC or CSC

During the conference, Joint Commission faculty and reviewers will deliver an in-depth review of the 2017 standards, requirements and review process, as well as practical strategies and implementation tips that can be adapted and applied to stroke programs. The event also will include:

- Challenging standards from 2016
- Emerging stroke care trends
- Evaluation, treatment and management of stroke patients
- Improving patient outcomes
- Evidence-based guidelines
- Learning how to function as a highly efficient team

[Register](#).

Learn more about [Joint Commission Resources](#)’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.