Deemed home health organizations: Revision eliminates giving patient written plan of care

Effective April 30, 2018, The Joint Commission will no longer score deemed home health organizations that fail to give their patients a written plan of care. This change is in response to recent communications from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) stating that it no longer requires the following in Condition of Participation (CoP) 484.60: “Each patient must receive an individualized written plan of care, including any revisions or additions.”

Since January 2018, The Joint Commission has been surveying home health organizations pursuing deemed status according to the language in the CoPs, as well as relevant Joint Commission requirements approved by CMS. Due to the recent communication from CMS, organizations are no longer required to provide a written individualized plan of care to each patient as currently required at PC.01.03.01, element of performance (EP) 10:

PC.01.03.01 — The organization plans the patient’s care.
EP 10: For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization provides the patient with a written individualized plan of care. The plan of care specifies the care and services necessary to meet the needs identified in the comprehensive assessment and addresses the following:
- All pertinent diagnoses
- Mental, psychosocial, and cognitive status
- Types of services, supplies, and equipment required
- The frequency and duration of visits
- The patient’s prognosis
- The patient’s potential for rehabilitation
- The patient’s functional limitations
- The patient’s permitted activities
- The patient’s nutritional requirements
- All medications and treatments
- Safety measures to protect against injury
- A description of the patient’s risk for emergency department visits and hospital readmission, and all necessary interventions to address the underlying risk factors
- Patient-specific interventions and education
- Patient and caregiver education and training to facilitate timely discharge
- Goals and measurable outcomes that the organization anticipates will occur as a result of implementing and coordinating the plan of care
- Information related to any advance directives
- Identification of the disciplines involved in providing care
- Any other relevant items, including additions, revisions and deletions.

This EP revision will be reflected in the January 2019 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Home Care and the January 2019 E-dition update. (Contact: Kathy Clark, kclark@jointcommission.org)
Effective Jan. 1, 2019: Minimum thrombectomy volumes added for CSC eligibility

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, The Joint Commission will start applying minimum mechanical thrombectomy eligibility requirements to the Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) certification program. This decision is related to the launch of the Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC) certification program earlier this year.

Organizations applying for TSC certification have to meet minimum mechanical thrombectomy volume requirements, as well as general eligibility requirements. Since CSCs provide the highest level of stroke care, they should also meet or exceed TSC requirements.

The revised eligibility requirements for CSC certification will continue to include the previous volume requirements for eligibility (such as subarachnoid hemorrhage due to aneurysm, clipping/coiling volumes, and tPA administration), as well as the following new volume requirements:

- An organization must have performed mechanical thrombectomy and post-procedure care for at least 15 patients with ischemic stroke in the past 12 months, or at least 30 patients over the past 24 months.
- All primary neurointerventionists at an organization applying for CSC certification or recertification must either be certified by the Committee for Advanced Subspecialty Training (CAST) or meet all the following criteria:
  - Completed an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited program or equivalent residency in neurosurgery, neurology or radiology.
  - Neurologists must have completed a stroke or neurocritical care fellowship supervised by the ACGME, CAST or United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (UCNS), or another equivalent oversight body.
  - Radiologists must have completed a neuroradiology subspecialty fellowship supervised by the ACGME, CAST or UCNS, or another equivalent oversight body.
  - Completed neuroendovascular procedure training in a CAST-accredited program or a similarly rigorous training program.
  - Performed 15 mechanical thrombectomies over the past 12 months, or 30 over the past 24 months (procedures performed at hospitals other than the one applying for CSC certification can be included in the total).

These new eligibility requirements will be reflected in the 2019 Comprehensive Certification Manual for Disease-Specific Care. (Contact: Standards Interpretation Group)

Joint Commission Resources

Save 15 percent by registering now for annual Joint Commission stroke conference

Going against the old adage of good things coming to those who wait, The Joint Commission is offering a 15 percent discount to those who register early for the 2018 Stroke Certification Conference. You can save on the cost of the conference — scheduled for 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on June 7 at the DoubleTree Oak Brook, 1909 Spring Road in Oak Brook, Illinois — by using promo code AHA1815 at checkout.

The annual conference is a deep dive into achieving and maintaining Joint Commission Stroke Certification for the following programs:

- Primary Stroke Center
- Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Acute Stroke Ready Hospital
- Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center

Those who attend will learn about 2018 standards and requirements, the review process, and best practices and implementation tips. Scheduled speakers are:

- Peter D. Panagos, MD, FACEP, FAHA, professor of emergency medicine and neurology at Washington University in St Louis
Robin S. Voss, RN, MHA, TNCC-I, field director, The Joint Commission

All U.S. hospitals are eligible for Joint Commission stroke certifications. Register.

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