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Accreditation

Joint Commission Nursing Care Center accreditation program celebrates 50 years
On Monday, May 23, The Joint Commission commemorated the 50th anniversary of its Nursing Care Center Accreditation program. The Joint Commission currently accredits more than 1,000 nursing homes that provide nursing care, treatment and services to more than 100,000 patients and residents every day in the United States.

The program was founded in 1966 as the Long Term Care Accreditation program. In 2013, it was reinvented to address the increasing levels of complex care provided to patients and residents and formally renamed. The program evolution continued and now includes specialty certifications recognizing advanced care competencies in post-acute care and memory care-related services.

"We are proud to celebrate the half century of this program, because it serves such an important goal of improving the quality and safety of care provided to thousands of residents and patients in Joint Commission accredited nursing care centers and other long-term care facilities," said Gina Zimmermann, executive director, Nursing Care Center Accreditation. "Over the years, we've continuously looked for ways to evolve and advance the program as the complexity of nursing home care has increased. True recognition goes out to the leaders and staff who commit to improving patient safety and quality together with The Joint Commission. It's your passion, dedication and tenacity that ultimately helps us to improve patient and resident care in the nursing home setting."

Fifty years ago, organizations applying for accreditation with The Joint Commission followed an eight-page standards manual. They now follow standards in a comprehensive accreditation manual that can be accessed electronically. The standards are developed and continuously renewed with input of consumers, government agencies, health care professionals, providers and subject matter experts to help organizations measure, assess and improve performance. (Contact: Nursing Care Center business development team, 630-792-5020, ncc@jointcommission.org)

Patient safety

New Take 5 podcast on informed consent
Informed consent is a vital component of establishing quality, patient-centered health care. The Joint Commission is committed to providing support in the area of informed consent by offering resources in an effort to improve both patient understanding and communication between the patient and clinician.

Ronald M. Wyatt, MD, MHA, patient safety officer and medical director in the Office of Quality and Patient Safety, discussed this topic and more during a recent Take 5 podcast, produced by The Joint Commission. Listen. [5:08]

For more information, see the February 2016 issue of Quick Safety, which also focuses on the topic of informed consent.
People

Joint Commission Resources appoints new board member
Joint Commission Resources, Inc., a nonprofit affiliate of The Joint Commission, has announced the appointment of Dr. Desmond Thio to its board of directors. Dr. Thio is chief executive officer at DeltaHealth Hospital and DeltaHealth Clinic in Shanghai, China. In this leadership role, he is responsible for the hospital and clinic’s efforts to provide world-class medical care and outstanding patient service.

Prior to that, he was president and senior vice president at Philips Healthcare Greater China, where he was responsible for business operations in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He oversaw all business modalities, including diagnostic imaging, image guided therapy, ultrasound, patient monitors and hospital informatics. He also previously held executive positions at Pagoda Pharma Group China, Abbott International USA and Pharmacia.

Resources

CDC issues U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on May 20 that detailed information about its pregnancy registry for comprehensive monitoring of pregnancy and infant outcomes following possible Zika virus infection. The registry covers all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories.

The data collected through the registry will be used to update recommendations for:
- Diagnostic testing
- Prenatal care and monitoring
- Counseling of pregnant women and families affected by Zika virus

For more information, read the May 20 MMWR.

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