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Accreditation and certification

NPSG 7 on MDROs and CLABSIs revised for hospitals, new for nursing care centers
The Joint Commission has revised requirements for National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 7 — Reduce the risk of health care–associated infections — for hospitals and critical access hospitals, as well as introduced new requirements for nursing care centers. These are effective Jan. 1, 2018.

These requirements include the following:

- **NPSG.07.03.01 — Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs):** Nursing home residents are at high risk for acquiring MDROs, and these infections are often spread through contact among residents and between residents and staff. MDROs can be passed between nursing care centers and acute care hospitals because hospitalization is often required to treat these infections. The changes to this NPSG help address infection prevention strategies in both settings to contain outbreaks. The note has been revised to include carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CRE) as one of the organisms covered by the NPSG. In addition, the education requirements for staff and independent practitioners have been revised to allow organizations to determine the appropriate time frame for education.

- **NPSG.07.04.01 — Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs):** A change to EP 11 specifies the use of an alcoholic chlorhexidine antiseptic for skin preparation during central venous catheter insertion unless contraindicated. In addition to reordering some of the elements of performance (EPs), this NPSG also has been modified to allow organizations to determine the appropriate time frame for educating staff and licensed independent practitioners.

View the prepublication standards.

New performance measures for Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification
A final set of standardized performance measures will become effective Jan. 1, 2018, for Acute Stroke Ready Hospital (ASRH) Certification (an advanced Disease-Specific Care Certification program). Data collection for the acute stroke ready (ASR) measures will be mandatory for all currently ASRH-certified programs, as well as those seeking initial certification.

The ASR measures are designed to evaluate the management of both ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke patients in hospitals and critical access hospitals that can:

- Quickly diagnose stroke
- Initiate IV thrombolytic therapy for eligible patients
- Transfer the patient to a higher-level primary or comprehensive stroke center for advanced therapies and services when indicated

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The ASR measure set completes the series of performance measure requirements for "spoke and hub" stroke systems of care, ensuring that stroke care provided in both the inpatient and outpatient settings will be evaluated. The set includes a new patient transfer measure, as well as the thrombolytic therapy measure currently required for primary and comprehensive stroke centers.

The Joint Commission has created an implementation guide detailing measure specifications for the five ASR measures. View more information, including the Acute Stroke Ready (ASR) Performance Measurement Implementation Guide. Questions about these measures may be sent via the Performance Measurement Network Q&A Forum.

EP establishes minimum qualifications for sleep study interpretation in sleep centers

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, a new element of performance (EP) for the Ambulatory Health Care (AHC) Accreditation program that establishes minimum qualifications for physicians who interpret sleep studies. This requirement, which is applicable only to sleep centers, will enhance the ability to assess the provision of safe and high-quality care in sleep centers.

View the prepublishation standards.

ISMP webinar on Medication Management standards

Is your organization having difficulty complying with The Joint Commission's Medication Management (MM) standards and related National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs)? If so, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is hosting a webinar on Thursday, July 27, from 1:30-3 p.m. ET, to help address these challenges.

The webinar, "2017 Update on The Joint Commission Medication-Related Standards," features Robert Campbell, PharmD, a Joint Commission surveyor in the Hospital Accreditation program, and will:

• Identify three of the most challenging MM standards and NPSGs
• Cover the reasons why organizations struggle to comply with those standards and learn examples on how to get into compliance
• Note changes or new interpretations to the requirements

Register or view other upcoming ISMP webinars.

Resources

Take 5 podcast talks partnership to reduce bloodstream infections in dialysis patients

A new partnership among The Joint Commission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and numerous kidney and dialysis organizations has been formed with the goal to help reduce the number of bloodstream infections in dialysis patients. The CDC estimates approximately 37,000 people get potentially deadly bloodstream infections related to their dialysis treatment.

Michael Kulczycki, executive director of the Ambulatory Care Accreditation program for The Joint Commission, discussed the partnership and more in the latest Take 5 podcast — Take 5: Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition. [3:24]

ONC updates SAFER Guides with new recommendations

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has updated its Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) guides. These resources can help organizations identify potential safety vulnerabilities in electronic health record (EHR) systems, as well as to reduce potential harm associated with EHRs.
The updates were made in response to feedback given to ONC from the American Medical Informatics Association, the EHR Association, the National Quality Forum, National Academy of Medicine and other organizations.

Two key updates to the guides are new recommendations in the:

- Test Results and Follow-up Reporting Guide
- Contingency Planning Guide

For more information on health information technology (IT), see Sentinel Event Alert, Issue 54 or take a free online course.

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- Quality, Reliability & Leadership — In a Safety Culture, Appropriate Behaviors Start at the Top: CEOs set the tone for a true safety culture. Read more in a blog featuring Citrus Valley Health Partners, written by Coleen Smith, RN, MBA, CPHQ, CPPS, director of high reliability initiatives at the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare. This is the third in a series of blog posts examining the 11 tenets of safety culture discussed in Sentinel Event Alert, Issue 57: The essential role of leadership in developing a safety culture.

- On Infection Prevention & Control — A Growing Patient Safety Concern: Improperly Sterilized or High-Level Disinfected Equipment: There have been plenty of recent headlines pertaining to improperly sterilized medical equipment leading to patient harm. Lisa Waldowski, DNP, PNP, CIC, infection control specialist at The Joint Commission, wrote about this and the latest Quick Safety, “Improperly sterilized or HLD equipment — a growing problem.”

Joint Commission Resources

Four Joint Commission/JCR books named as Doody’s Core Titles for 2017

Four books from The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Resources have been named as Doody’s Core Titles for 2017. This list is made up of the most distinguished references by subject area in the health sciences. Medical librarians, health care professionals, researchers and students rely on this selective list to determine the best books in their specialties.

The books are:

- Fundamentals of Health Care Improvement: A Guide to Improving Your Patients’ Care, 2nd edition — by Gregory S. Ogrinc, Linda A. Headrick, Shirley M. Moore, Amy J. Barton, Mary A. Dolansky, and Wendy S Madigosky — which was co-published by JCR and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. This was classified in the Health Sciences — Quality Improvement subject area. A new edition is set to be published later this year.
- The APIC/JCR Infection Prevention and Control Workbook, 3rd edition — written by Barbara M. Soule, Kathleen Meehan Arias, et al — was co-published by JCR and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. It was awarded four stars by Doody’s Book Review. It was placed in the Health Sciences — Infectious Disease subject area.
- 2017 Standards for Ambulatory Care, which was placed in the Nursing — Ambulatory subject area.
- 2017 Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Nursing Care Centers, which was placed in the Nursing — Long Term Care subject area. It was designated by Doody’s as an “essential purchase.”

These books are available for purchase online.
Upcoming July conferences focus on EC, LS standards
Those tasked with their organization’s compliance with Environment of Care (EC) and Life Safety (LS) standards may find two July conferences of particular interest. The Joint Commission is hosting its EC Base Camp from July 11-12, and its Exploring the Life Safety Chapter conference from July 13-14. Both events will take place at the DoubleTree Oak Brook, 1909 Spring Road in Oak Brook, Illinois.

- **EC Base Camp**: A two-day seminar that will give participants knowledge, tools and strategies to help ready their organizations for a successful survey, as well as to build a framework to deliver the highest level of patient safety and care. Joint Commission engineers will be on-hand to discuss current challenges and give compliance tips and strategies.

- **Exploring the Life Safety Chapter**: A seminar that will help participants master the always-challenging Life Safety Code® standards to reduce risk and maximize safety throughout one’s facility. LS experts will explain Joint Commission standards updates, provide practical compliance examples and share proven safety strategies.

[Register](#).

Learn more about [Joint Commission Resources’](http://www.jointcommission.org) offerings online or call 877-223-6866.