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Quality and safety

New Sentinel Event Alert video: Preventing Unintended Retained Foreign Objects

Unintended retention of foreign objects (URFOs) — also known as retained surgical items (RSIs) — after invasive procedures can cause death or serious harm to patients. Despite efforts to reduce the risk of error during operations, URFOs continue to be frequently reported sentinel events.

The Joint Commission addressed this topic in Sentinel Event Alert 51: Preventing unintended retained foreign objects. Most recently, a video with Erin Lawler, human factors engineer, from The Joint Commission, was released that explains how to maximize safety in an operating room using proven practices that can be implemented immediately.

Additional resources from The Joint Commission on URFOs include:

- Webinar replay
- Take 5 podcast
- Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety articles
  - Eliminating Retained Surgical Sponges
  - A Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Retained Foreign Objects

View the new video and Sentinel Event Alert 51.

PERSPECTIVES PREVIEW: Special report on suicide prevention in health care settings

Suicide is now the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. Although the vast majority of suicides occur outside of health care facilities, many suicides occur every year within health care facilities, including psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric units within general hospitals, general medical/surgical wards, and emergency departments. Most experts think that far more suicides occur shortly after hospital discharge, although conclusive national data are not available.

Since publishing Sentinel Event Alert, Issue 7, “Inpatient Suicides: Recommendations for Prevention,” in 1998, The Joint Commission has worked with health care organizations on conducting rigorous risk assessments to help make their health care environment safer and prevent suicides. National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 15.01.01 was introduced in 2007 to further focus preventive efforts. However, suicides continue to occur within health care settings. Over the last five years, approximately 85 suicides per year were reported as sentinel events to The Joint Commission, leading to calls to redouble preventive efforts.

Read more on this topic, including the list of Recommendations Regarding Environmental Hazards for Providers and Surveyors reached by an expert panel assembled by The Joint Commission.
New ISMP tool can help hospitals, other organizations with high-alert medication best practices
The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has developed a new tool that can help hospitals, long-term care facilities and some outpatient facilities evaluate their best practices related to high-alert medications, as well as to identify opportunities for improvement and track trends.

The ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for High-Alert Medications tool focuses on general high-alert medications in 11 specific medication categories, including:

- Opioids
- Insulin
- Neuromuscular blocking agents
- Chemotherapy
- Moderate and minimal sedation

ISMP encourages facilities to anonymously submit their findings to ISMP online. Participants who do so — through a secure internet portal — will be able to obtain their weighted scores, so they can compare their findings to demographically similar organizations. Participation also can help organizations meet requirements for managing high-alert medications from regulatory and accrediting agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission.

Learn more.

Resources
ICYMI: Check out Pioneers in Quality™ Proven Practices webinar replay on eCQM accuracy
A replay of a recent Pioneers in Quality™ Proven Practices webinar — Ensuring eCQM Accuracy — has been posted to The Joint Commission’s website.

Pioneers in Quality™ launched last year to assist hospitals on their journey toward electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) adoption, which includes a series of educational programs. One of the goals of the program is to help hospitals accurately reflect the patient care they provide, while gaining clarity on how to be a "Top Performer" in this new measurement world.

Representatives from St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, from Newburgh, New York, and the BayCare Health System, based in Florida, were selected to present their processes for recording, keeping and utilizing accurate eCQM data.

Watch the webinar replay.

Webinar replay: High reliability in behavioral health care
The concept of high reliability is new to the behavioral health field, but it has been used for years to improve performance and safety in airline travel, nuclear power plants and other critical fields. The Joint Commission recently held a webinar to learn why high reliability is important, how The Joint Commission can help, and how to begin integrating these concepts into your organization.

Anne Kelly, vice president of clinical services at Acadia Healthcare, gave details of what the organization is doing to become a highly reliable organization, with specific tips and resources for other behavioral health organizations.

Watch the webinar replay.

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
- Ambulatory Buzz — First Integrated Care Certified Organization Shares Tips for Streamlining Processes: The term “integrated care” is thrown around a lot in health care, but the recent emphasis on population health has made integration absolutely essential in providing safe care.
Michael Kulczycki, executive director of the Ambulatory Health Care program, explains in this blog post.

- **On Infection Prevention & Control — You’re Invited: Join National Project to Reduce Harm from Antibiotics:** We’ve all heard the importance of the “right drug at the right dose for the right duration.” Salome Chitavi, PhD, project director, Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation, writes in a blog post that a new collaboration by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Johns Hopkins Medicine and NORC at the University of Chicago may be a great, free opportunity for your hospital or unit.

- **Quality, Reliability & Leadership — Using Unit-Level Safety Culture Survey Results to Make Quality Improvements:** This is the seventh in a series of posts examining the 11 tenets of safety culture discussed in *Sentinel Event Alert*, Issue 57, and the accompanying infographic.

### Joint Commission Resources

**Effective Jan. 1: CJCPs® can earn up to 10 hours of CE credits without prior approval**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, Certified Joint Commission Professionals™ (CJCP®) can earn up to 10 hours of continuing education credits for triennial recertification through non-Joint Commission Resources (JCR) and/or Joint Commission events without obtaining prior approval from JCR. This change is based on review and input from CJCPs, as well as the CJCP Steering Committee.

CJCPs must still earn a total 30 CJCP credit hours over each three-year period of their certification to remain certified, including 20 credit hours through attending JCR- and/or Joint Commission-approved events.

Options to meet CJCP recertification eligibility include:

- A minimum of 20 credit hours earned through JCR and/or Joint Commission programs, including:
  - JCR live education or face-to-face learning
  - Custom education
  - Web-based training
  - JCRQSN broadcasts
  - CJCP-approved events hosted by The Joint Commission

- Up to 10 credit hours earned through other programs and events providing education and content of the education that meets CJCP certification goals and supports the ongoing education of an accreditation manager. Topics include:
  - Leadership
  - Communication
  - Patient safety
  - Joint Commission survey process
  - Joint Commission standards
  - National Patient Safety Goals

The CJCP certification recognizes health care professionals’ specialized knowledge and skills to help their organizations achieve quality and safety goals, prepared to work with staff to achieve continuous standards compliance and demonstrate commitment to quality.

Learn more. (Contact: cjcp@jcrinc.com)

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