Accreditation and certification

Now available: 2020 National Patient Safety Goals

The 2020 National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) are now available on The Joint Commission’s website. You can download the entire chapter from the accreditation standards manual or easy-to-read versions.

Included in this year’s NPSGs are the revised elements of performance for NPSG.15.01.01 for all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and behavioral health care organizations that went into effect earlier this year. These new requirements are designed to improve the quality and safety of care for those who are being treated for behavioral health conditions and those who are identified as high risk for suicide.

View the NPSGs.

In review: CMS final rule issued on Discharge Planning Rule, Burden Reduction Final Rule

The discharge planning and burden reduction changes announced in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) final rules on Sept. 30 are under review by The Joint Commission. Any changes to Joint Commission accreditation requirements for the affected deemed programs will go through the CMS iterative review process, and organizations will be notified of any changes via Joint Commission Perspectives and Joint Commission Online.

The effective date for most of the changes is Nov. 29, 2019, except for: hospital and critical access hospital antibiotic stewardship programs that must be implemented by March 30, 2020; and quality assessment and performance improvement programs (QAPI) in critical access hospitals that must be implemented by March 30, 2021.

Read the final rules:
- Discharge Planning Rule
- Burden Reduction Final Rule

Coming soon: Laboratory survey process updated to address duplicate requirements

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, any laboratory located inside a Joint Commission-accredited hospital or critical access hospital that is seeking accreditation through the Laboratory Accreditation program may choose not to be surveyed against selected duplicate requirements. However, the laboratory must declare during the application process that it wishes to pursue this option.

The duplicate requirements are from the following chapters and elements of performance (EPs):
- Environment of Care (EC)
  - EC.01.01, EP 1
  - EC.02.01.01, EP 5
  - EC.02.01.03, EP 1
  - EC.02.03.01, EP 4
  - EC.02.03.03, EPs 2 and 5
  - EC.02.03.05, EPs 15-16, and 21-24
  - EC.02.05.01, EPs 8-9
  - EC.02.05.03, EPs 3-5
Quality and safety

Check out updates to Suicide Prevention Portal resources section
New resources are available on The Joint Commission’s Suicide Prevention Portal.

The online web portal was created to help organizations comply with National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 15.01.01: Reduce the risk for suicide — as well as with the suicide risk recommendations made by the Suicide Risk Reduction Expert Panel.

The updated resources include:
- Suicide Prevention Webinar: Safety Planning Webinar Replay (Note: You must register to view the webinar replay.)
- Suicide Prevention Webinar: Safety Planning Slide Deck
- Safety Planning Video Intervention: Part 3 [3:33]
- Safety Planning Video Intervention: Part 4 [4:14]

Join now: AHRQ seeks ambulatory clinics for antibiotic prescription improvement project
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking ambulatory clinics to take part in its free, yearlong Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use. Beginning December 2019, the program aims to use evidence-based guidance and strategies to overcome the challenges — including attitudes, beliefs and cultures — that prevent better antibiotic prescribing.

Participating organizations also will:
- Meet the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) requirements.
- Have an opportunity to comply with the proposed Joint Commission antimicrobial stewardship standard for its Ambulatory Accreditation program.
- Be offered continuing education credits (including Maintenance of Certification for the American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Pediatrics, and American Board of Family Medicine) at no charge.

Interested ambulatory organizations should try to attend an informational webinar for more details. Upcoming dates are:
- Oct. 15
- Oct. 30
- Nov. 5
- Nov. 14
The program — funded and guided by AHRQ — will be led by Johns Hopkins Medicine and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Learn more in a recent Ambulatory Buzz blog post or email antibioticsafety@norc.org for more information.

**Upcoming IHO webinar on flu season preparation features methods from JCR book**

Time is running out to register for an upcoming Institute for Healthcare Optimization webinar on preparing for the flu season.

The webinar — “Optimizing Patient Flow in Preparation for the Flu Season” — is scheduled for Oct. 23, from 9-10 a.m. PT / 10-11 a.m. MT / 11 a.m.-noon CT / noon-1 p.m. ET. It will feature methods described in a Joint Commission Resources-published book, titled, “Optimizing Patient Flow: Advanced Strategies for Managing Variability to Enhance Access, Quality and Safety.”

To reach a higher level of patient flow optimization, IHO recommends a two-pronged approach:
- Resolving issues for the upcoming winter.
- Creating sustainable infrastructure for increased resilience in the future.

Through this approach, hospitals can see decreased emergency department boarding and lengths of stay, as well as increased discharges before noon and improved patient safety and satisfaction. The webinar aims to provide recommendations and examples of implementation.

Register.

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