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Patient safety

John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards applications due Oct. 31
Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards, which recognize major achievements by individuals and organizations improving patient safety and health care quality.

The Eisenberg Awards were established in 2002 by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and The Joint Commission in memory of John M. Eisenberg, MD, former administrator of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Eisenberg was a member of the founding board of directors of NQF and an impassioned advocate for health care quality improvement.

The awards recognize honorees in three categories:
- Individual — Recognizes those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and scholarship in patient safety and health care quality through a substantive body of work.
- National — Recognizes projects or initiatives that extend beyond the local area to achieve national impact. This category focuses especially on projects or initiatives that involve successful system changes and interventions, make the environment of care safer, or advocate on behalf of patients.
- Local — Recognizes projects or initiatives that impact an organization, local community, region, or state and result in measurable improvements in health and well-being.

Applications using the online submission form must be completed by Oct. 31. (For additional information contact: EisenbergAwards@qualityforum.org)

Joint Commission patient safety officer, IHI pen white paper on curbing health care inequity
For too long, equity has been the “forgotten aim” in the quality improvement movement, even though it was identified as a key priority by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2001, according to Ronald Wyatt, MD, MHA, patient safety officer and medical director in the Office of Quality and Patient Safety at The Joint Commission.

Wyatt is the lead author of a new white paper in conjunction with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) — Achieving Health Equity: A Guide for Health Care Organizations — that identifies numerous strategies hospitals and health care systems can adopt to address equity in access, treatments and outcomes. It also states how quality improvement tools can lead to the elimination of inequities in health care by race, ethnicity, gender, age or disability.

“The data clearly show that inequities exist, and we believe that armed with the tools and guidance in this white paper, health care leaders have ways to elevate equity as a strategic priority in their organizations and to take immediate action to improve health equity at the point of care and in the community,” Wyatt said. “Together, we can reduce unjust, costly, and persistent inequities in health and health care across our nation.”

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The white paper includes:

- A five-part framework for health care organizations to improve health equity in the communities they serve
- A list of key considerations when measuring health equity
- A case study of the Henry Ford Health System
- A self-assessment tool for health care organizations to evaluate their current state related to each component of the framework

For more information or resources, visit IHI's Health Equity topic page.

**Accreditation**

**New Take 5 podcast focuses on SAFER matrix**

A new Take 5 podcast — Everything You Need to Know about the SAFER Matrix — was released last week by The Joint Commission. Project REFRESH, the Joint Commission’s multiphase process improvement project, includes a transformative approach for identifying and communicating risk levels associated with deficiencies cited during surveys. This Survey Analysis for Evaluating Risk™ (SAFER™) approach provides organizations with additional information related to risk of deficiencies to help prioritize and focus corrective actions.

Carrie Mayer, MBA, Certified Master Black Belt; Leslie Smith, MS, Business Transformation Leader; and Caroline Heskett, MPH, Business Transformation Leader — all in the Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations for The Joint Commission — discussed the SAFER™ matrix. [11:00]

**Resources**

**Reminder: AAMI Foundation hosting meeting on top health care technology challenges**

The AAMI Foundation is hosting a two-day meeting Sept. 27-28 in Chicago on some of the top health care technology challenges. The speakers at the event are set to share the successes they have seen in improving patient safety in the areas of monitoring patients on opioids, alarm management, and infusion therapy safety. The cost is $50 to attend one day or $75 to attend both. For more information, email Marilyn Flack at mflack@aami.org.

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