Editor’s note: Joint Commission Online will not publish on December 24 or December 31. Look for the weekly e-newsletter to return on Wednesday, January 7. Happy holidays!

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Joint Commission releases new Speak Up™ infographic on medical imaging tests
The Joint Commission released a new Speak Up™ infographic titled, Speak Up™: X-rays, MRIs and other medical imaging tests. “The Joint Commission is issuing this infographic to assist health care organizations and providers with informing patients about the benefits and risks of imaging procedures, as well as precautions,” said Ana Pujols McKee, M.D., executive vice president and chief medical officer, The Joint Commission. “As providers, it is our responsibility to help patients fully understand what the benefits and risks are for every imaging procedure, so they can make an informed personal decision on what is best for their health.”

The free infographic covers what to expect when getting an X-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or nuclear scan. A list of questions and information to give your health care provider are also included. Free downloadable files of Speak Up materials are available on The Joint Commission website. Speak Up brochures and posters can be purchased in quantities through Joint Commission Resources at 877-223-6866 or online. The infographic can be posted on a website or printed as a 36-by-36 inch poster. (Contact: Dawn Glossa, dglossa@jointcommission.org)

Patient safety

CDC reissues Health Advisory urging flu vaccination and use of antivirals
Just in time for National Influenza Vaccination Week, December 7-13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reissued its CDC Health Advisory regarding the 2014-15 influenza season. The advisory notes that half of the H3N2 viruses analyzed since October are different from the H3N2 virus that is included in this season’s flu vaccine. They are different enough that the CDC is concerned that protection from vaccination against these drifted H3N2 viruses may be reduced. Even though protection is reduced, vaccination provides some cross-protection from the drifted viruses and can reduce the likelihood of severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death. In addition to vaccination, the CDC continues to recommend:

- **Antiviral medications as a second line of defense against the flu.** Treatment with antiviral drugs is especially important for people at high-risk of serious flu complications or people who are very sick with flu. It’s especially important to get antiviral medicines quickly – as they work best when started within two days of the beginning of flu symptoms.
- **Covering your cough, staying away from sick people, and washing your hands often.** If you get the flu, stay home from work or school. If you are sick, do not go near other people, so that you don’t make them sick.

For more information, see the Strategies for Improving Rapid Influenza Testing in Ambulatory Settings (SIRAS) on The Joint Commission website, or visit the CDC’s Influenza (Flu) web page.
Resources

New on the Web

- **Replays:**
  - [Sentinel Event Alert 53: Managing risk during transition to new ISO tubing connector standards](webinar)
  - [Quick Start to Certification: Disease-Specific Care Certification Preparation (teleconference)]

- **Blog post:** *Ambulatory Buzz:* [Made a Good Catch in the OR Lately?](

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