In this issue

Sentinel event statistics updated, released through end of 2015
Podcast: Joint Commission’s Wyatt talks about clinical alarm management for AAMI
Health IT safety collaborative releases set of safe practices for copy and paste
Joint Commission suspends CSTK-07, median time to revascularization
Joint Commission accredits FOH, largest federal provider of occupational health services
Find out more: webinar replay on Pioneers in Quality program

Quality and safety

Sentinel event statistics updated, released through end of 2015
The Joint Commission updated its sentinel event statistics through the end of 2015.

The Joint Commission reviewed a total of 936 sentinel events through the end of 2015. The 10 most frequently reported types of sentinel events and the 10 most frequently identified root causes (spanning several types of events) are shown in the tables.

Data from the 9,581 incidents reviewed from 2004 through the end of 2015 show that a total of 9,884 patients have been affected by these events, with 5,540 (56.1 percent) resulting in the patient’s death, 863 (8.7 percent) resulting in permanent loss of function and 2,909 (29.5 percent) resulting in unexpected additional care and/or psychological impact.

The Joint Commission Office of Quality and Patient Safety (OQPS) collaborates with organizations on identifying a sentinel event’s root causes and creating an action plan to reduce the risk that similar events might occur in the future.

For more information, visit The Joint Commission’s Sentinel Event Web page. (Contact: Gerry Castro, gcastro@jointcommission.org)

Podcast: Joint Commission’s Wyatt talks about clinical alarm management for AAMI
The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation released a podcast on clinical alarm management in mid-February featuring The Joint Commission Patient Safety Officer and Medical Director Ronald Wyatt, MD, MHA.

The podcast also features Maria Cvach, DNP, CCRN, director of policy management and integration for the Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore, as she and Wyatt talk about what hospitals should be doing, as well as how they can make a positive impact on effective clinical alarm management.

The podcasts — developed in partnership with the studios of Healthcare Tech Talk — explore immediate health care technology issues and the approaches being used to fix them. Listen to the podcast.

www.jointcommission.org
Health IT safety collaborative releases set of safe practices for copy and paste
The Partnership for Health IT Patient Safety has released a set of safe practice recommendations on the safe use of copy and paste, developed by a stakeholder group led by Tejal Gandhi, MD, CEO and president of the National Patient Safety Foundation. More than 25 organizations support the recommendations, including The Joint Commission.

The widespread and often underreported practice of copy and paste was chosen as the Partnership’s first release in a series of evidence-based recommendations designed to improve health information technology (IT) safety. The Partnership, established in 2013, includes health care providers, health IT developers, academic researchers, patient safety organizations, liability insurers and professional societies.

View the article — Health IT Safe Practices: Toolkit for the Safe Use of Copy and Paste — for more information, as well as implementation tools and recommended safe practices.

Performance measures

Joint Commission suspends CSTK-07, median time to revascularization
The Joint Commission is suspending the Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSTK)-07 measure — median time to revascularization — until further notice. This action follows reports from comprehensive stroke centers of data collection issues involving the First Pass data elements.

This measure is one of eight CSTK measures required to meet performance measurement requirements for Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification. Suspension of data collection for this measure is retroactive for discharges on and after Jan. 1, 2016.

A new measure — CSTK-09, arrival time to skin puncture — will be added to the set for implementation Jan. 1, 2017.

Accreditation

Joint Commission accredits FOH, largest federal provider of occupational health services
The Joint Commission has awarded Ambulatory Care Accreditation to Federal Occupational Health (FOH), the largest provider of occupational health services in the federal government.

The Joint Commission’s accreditation for occupational/worksite health services aims to help ambulatory organizations improve treatment for work-related injuries and illness, work-related preventive medicine and injury, illness-prevention services, OSHA, and departmentally-mandated medical surveillance programs. The Joint Commission is a member of the National Association of Worksite Health Centers.

A component of the Program Support Center within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FOH serves nearly 400 federal agencies and provides occupational health services to 1.8 million federal employees. (Contact: Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation, AHCquality@jointcommission.org)

Resources

Find out more: webinar replay on Pioneers in Quality program
Hear a replay of The Joint Commission’s Feb. 23 webinar — Time to get back to eCQM 101 – A Breakdown of the Basics — to help hospitals better understand the emerging world of electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM). This is the first of several webinars scheduled throughout the year.

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