**Editor's note: The article, “CMS renews Joint Commission home health accreditation deeming authority,” was revised on May 13, 2014.**

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### CMS renews Joint Commission home health accreditation deeming authority

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it has granted The Joint Commission deeming authority for the accreditation of home health agencies for a six-year period effective March 31, 2014, through March 31, 2020. The Joint Commission has been recognized as a CMS deeming authority for home health since 1993. As part of the process for awarding deeming authority, CMS evaluated The Joint Commission’s standards for home health and found they meet or exceed those established by CMS. This designation means that Joint Commission-accredited home health organizations may request to be surveyed by The Joint Commission for compliance with the requirements of CMS for participation in the Medicare program for reimbursement. Accreditation is voluntary, and seeking deemed status through accreditation is an option – not a requirement. Organizations seeking Medicare approval may choose to be surveyed either by an accrediting body, such as The Joint Commission, or by state surveyors on behalf of CMS. All deemed status surveys are unannounced. For more information, read the [full news release](#) or visit the [Home Care Accreditation web pages](#). (Contact: Margherita Labson, mlabson@jointcommission.org)

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### Patient safety

### Sentinel event statistics released for 2013

The Joint Commission recently updated its sentinel event statistics with new summary data for January 1 through December 31, 2013. In 2013, 887 sentinel events were reported. Sentinel event outcomes from 2004 through 2013 show that a total of 7,881 patients have been affected by these events, with 4,686 (59.1 percent) resulting in the patient’s death, 752 (9.5 percent) resulting in loss of function, and 2,487 (31.4 percent) resulting in unexpected additional care and/or psychological impact.

The Joint Commission Sentinel Event database is designed to increase the general knowledge about sentinel events, their contributing factors, and strategies for prevention. The Joint Commission learns of sentinel events either voluntarily from accredited organizations, or through other mechanisms such as the complaint process, or media coverage. It is estimated that fewer than 2 percent of all sentinel events are reported to The Joint Commission and that only about two-thirds of these are voluntarily reported by the organization. As these data are not an epidemiologic data set, no conclusions should be drawn about the actual relative frequency of events or trends in events over time. For more information, visit [The Joint Commission Sentinel Event web page](#). (Contact: Gerard Castro, gcastro@jointcommission.org)
New Speak Up™ video highlights importance of depression warning signs

Today, The Joint Commission released a new video, “Speak Up: About Your Depression,” to draw attention to the importance of learning the warning signs of depression and seeking help for the condition. The video features Rita, a new mother, and Julius, a world traveler and person with cancer. Both characters are feeling depressed – Rita no longer wants to take her baby for a walk with the other mothers, and Julius avoids his chemotherapy appointment. The video provides the following information about depression:

- Everybody feels blue sometimes, but depression is more than that. It can affect anyone, at any age.
- Depression can make you feel overwhelmed, agitated or isolated for weeks at a time.
- If you feel that you are sleeping more, have low energy, or are eating more or less, these are warning signs of depression.
- Knowing how to get help is the first step to getting better. Tell a friend, family member or doctor. Just talking to others can help.
- Treatment can include counseling, medication or support groups.
- Depression can be damaging when left untreated. Don’t just wait for depression to go away.
- Feeling better takes time. While you are getting help, stick to your daily routine – go to work, school or just get out of the house.

Free downloadable files of Speak Up materials are available on The Joint Commission website. Speak Up brochures and posters also are available for purchase in quantities through Joint Commission Resources at (877) 223-6866 or online. (Contact: Dawn Glossa, dglossa@jointcommission.org)

National Nurses Week, May 6-12

The Joint Commission salutes nurses during National Nurses Week, May 6-12. Nurses serve with passion and dedication to their profession and a strong commitment to the quality and safety of patient care. Check out The Joint Commission tributes on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Resources

CMO Academy to be held July 10-13 during ACPE 2014 Summer Institute

A CMO Academy, developed in collaboration with The Joint Commission, will be held July 10-13 during the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) 2014 Summer Institute in Seattle, Washington. The program, intended for physicians and other health care leaders who wish to learn how to communicate under routine as well as less than ideal circumstances, will provide information on how to be effective as a chief medical officer. Participants will:

- Get the knowledge and tools to ensure communication is clear, consistent and practical to both patients and your health care team.
- Understand how to create an environment open to sharing opinions.
- Master the ability to create and develop successful partnerships, both internally and externally.

To register, visit the ACPE website. Note: ACPE is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. ACPE designates this live activity for a maximum of 37 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Participants will receive 37 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for completing the course.

New on the web

- **Podcast:** Take 5 with The Joint Commission: Reducing falls. Black Belt Amy Fritz discusses how the seven hospitals participating in the Center for Transforming Healthcare’s fall project reduced falls with injury by 62 percent and reduced all falls by 35 percent.
- **Webinar replay:** How to achieve Palliative Care Certification
• Pricing worksheet: 2014 Behavioral Health Home Certification
• Have you considered hiring Joint Commission certified staffing firms?
• Blog posts:
  o JC Physician Blog: Taking a stand against falls. Erin DuPree, M.D, chief medical officer and vice president, The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare, discusses the goals of the Preventing Falls with Injury project.
  o The View From The Joint Commission: Some Good News About CLABSI, and How to Make it Even Better.
  o @ Home with The Joint Commission: Lynn's song. Margherita Labson R.N., M.S., executive director Home Care Program, provides a tribute to former National Home Infusion Association Board Chairwoman Lynn Giglione.
  o Musings...Ambulatory Patient Safety: We are listening ... Make the Customer Value Assessment Work for You!
• Upcoming JCR seminars and conferences:
  o Hospital Accreditation Essentials: May 19-20, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Maximizing Hospital Tracer Activities: May 21, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Home Care Accreditation Essentials: May 22-23, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o 2014 Stroke Certification Seminar: June 19, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Environment of Care Base Camp: July 22-23, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
  o Exploring the Life Safety Chapter: July 24-25, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ education programs and publications at www.jcrinc.com or call 877-223-6866.