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Accreditation

CMS renews Joint Commission ambulatory surgical center deeming authority for six years
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has renewed The Joint Commission’s deeming authority for its accreditation of ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) for six years, effective December 20, 2014, through December 20, 2020. As part of the process for awarding deeming authority, CMS evaluated The Joint Commission’s standards and survey process and found they meet or exceed those established by CMS. This designation means that Joint Commission-accredited ASCs may be surveyed by The Joint Commission for compliance with the requirements of CMS for participation in the Medicare or Medicaid programs.
Organizations seeking Medicare or Medicaid approval may choose to be surveyed either by an accrediting body, such as The Joint Commission, or by state surveyors on behalf of CMS. (Contact: Mary Beth Bresch White, mbreschwhite@jointcommission.org)

Effective December 19, 2014: Standards changes for ASCs with deemed status
New revisions have been made to the standards for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) with deemed status. The latest set of revisions, which are effective December 19, 2014, are designed to demonstrate equivalency to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS’) Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) for the maintenance, inspection, and testing activities of facility and medical equipment. Links to the prepublication standards that include all of the recent revisions are listed below:
- Revisions effective December 19, 2014: Prepublication standards
- Revisions effective August 25, 2014: Prepublication standards | Joint Commission Online article
- Revisions effective July 11, 2014: Prepublication standards | Joint Commission Online article

The changes were made as a result of CMS’ review of The Joint Commission’s application for deeming authority for ASCs. The revisions will be published in the 2014 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care; and in the January 2015 E-dition® update, which will include an ASC crosswalk. (Contact: John Fishbeck, jfishbeck@jointcommission.org)

Patient safety

Revised Sentinel Event Policy includes patient safety concepts
The Joint Commission’s Sentinel Event Policy has been revised to incorporate patient safety concepts and clarify Joint Commission processes. Effective January 1, 2015, the new policy:
- Defines a category of events called “patient safety events,” of which a sentinel event is one type.
- Requires organizations to conduct “comprehensive systematic analyses,” of which root cause analyses are only one type, to identify the contributing and causal factor of a sentinel event.
- Provides for 45 business days (instead of calendar days) from the occurrence of a sentinel event to complete and submit to The Joint Commission the organization’s comprehensive systematic analysis and action plan (or the organization’s response to the sentinel event).
- Incorporates the following into the list of sentinel events:
  - Flame, or unanticipated smoke, heat or flashes occurring during an episode of patient care.
  - Any intrapartum (related to the birth process) maternal death or severe maternal morbidity.

The revised requirements have been published in the fall 2015 E-dition® update to the comprehensive accreditation manuals. For more information, visit the Sentinel Event Web page. (Contact: Gerard Castro, gcastro@jointcommission.org)
Resources

New on the Web

- **Podcast:** What Parents Need To Know About Enterovirus 68 (EV-D68). Lisa Waldowski, infection control specialist, talks about EV-D68 and how to prevent the virus from spreading.
- **Crosswalks:** National CLAS Standards and TJC Hospital Accreditation Requirements Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient-and-Family-Centered Care
- **Newsletters:**
  - Quick Safety – Issue Eight, November 2014: Risks related to power morcellation in gynecologic surgery
  - Physician Leader Monthly – November 2014
  - InTouch – Issue Two, 2014
- **Blog posts:**
  - Ambulatory Buzz: New structure, better results
- **Webinars:**
  - Best Practices and New Standards in Medication-Assisted Opioid Treatment: December 3, 1 to 2 p.m. CT (for medication-assisted opioid treatment programs).
  - Quick Start to Certification: Health Care Staffing Services Certification Preparation: December 5, noon to 1 p.m. CT.

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