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Sentinel Event statistics released through second quarter 2015

The Joint Commission updated its Sentinel Event statistics through the second quarter of 2015. Data from the 9,119 incidents reviewed from 2004 through the second quarter of 2015 show that a total of 9,384 patients have been affected by these events, with 5,383 (57.4 percent) resulting in the patient’s death, 847 (9.0 percent) resulting in permanent loss of function and 2,778 (29.6 percent) resulting in unexpected additional care and/or psychological impact. The Joint Commission reviewed a total of 474 Sentinel Events through the first half 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. 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.

According to the redesigned Sentinel Event Policy effective January 1, 2015, all sentinel events must be reviewed by the organization and are subject to review by The Joint Commission. Another change is that root cause analyses have been recast as one form – albeit the most common one – of the comprehensive systematic analyses used to identify factors that contributed to a sentinel event. Note: This data should not be used to draw conclusions about the actual relative frequency of events or trends in events over time.

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

New Leadership module on EC.02.05.01 available on Physical Environment portal

A new module — EC.02.05.01 - Utility Systems – Leadership — is available on The Joint Commission’s Physical Environment portal. The Leadership aspect is part two of the module on EC.02.05.01; part one covered clinical impact – how noncompliance with the standard can affect patient care and safety. The Joint Commission has identified 25 Life Safety and Environment of Care elements of performance, from eight standards, that have been frequently cited during survey activity over the past four years. The Physical Environment portal, in partnership with the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), is available on the Joint Commission website and provides information to reduce findings of noncompliance.

www.jointcommission.org
The portal aims to improve patient safety with:

- Best practices in the patient care environment
- High Reliability practices for leadership to assess and ensure compliance

**John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award applications due Oct. 30**

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award, which recognizes major achievements for individuals and organizations in 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, director of the agency for healthcare research and quality. Eisenberg was a member of the founding board of directors of NQF and an impassioned advocate for health care quality improvement.

The accomplishments of award nominees/applicants should be clearly linked to the principles that Eisenberg promoted throughout his career. These include:

- Dedication to improving the quality of health care and patient safety
- Leadership in advancing methods for measuring and reporting health care quality
- Expanding the public's capacity to evaluate the quality and safety of health care
- Promoting health care choices based upon information about safety and quality

Applications are due to the NQF by Oct. 30. (Contact: Amy Shaw, EisenbergAwards@qualityforum.org)

**Feedback sought on CAUTI National Patient Safety Goal; proposed NPSG for nursing care centers**

A proposed new National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) on catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) for the nursing care center accreditation program is out for a field review. The proposed new requirements are focused on evidence-based practices for preventing CAUTI.

The Joint Commission also is seeking feedback on the proposed modifications to NPSG 07.06.01 regarding the prevention of CAUTI for the hospital (HAP) and critical access hospital (CAH) accreditation programs. The end date for comments is Oct.14.

**Resources**

**In observance of Sepsis Awareness Month, CDC releases new resources**

September is Sepsis Awareness Month, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — in collaboration with Sepsis Alliance, Rory Staunton Foundation and the CDC Foundation — has released a series of fact sheets and other resources aimed to improve early detection and treatment of sepsis. CDC also has scheduled a sepsis-focused chat on Twitter for 2 p.m. ET, Thursday, Sept. 10. Resources include:

- **Video** from CDC Director and World Sepsis Day Ambassador Dr. Tom Frieden, reminding patients and providers on the importance of detecting sepsis early.
- An infographic to increase sepsis awareness among both the general public and health care professionals.
- Sepsis early detection and care improvement bundles from the Surviving Sepsis Campaign and the Society for Critical Care Medicine.
- A webinar on pediatric sepsis from the Children’s Hospital Association.
- CDC’s Safe Healthcare Blog series on patient stories and clinical best practices.

Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death. Over 1 million cases of sepsis occur each year in the United States, and half of the patients who get sepsis will die. For more information, visit the CDC’s Web page on sepsis.
Disease-Specific Care Certification manuals now available for pre-order, to be released Oct. 30

The following 2016 Certification Manuals now are available for pre-order, and they are to be released Oct. 30.

- **2016 Standards for Disease-Specific Care Certification:** New this year is an abridged manual without the advanced program standards. This manual provides quick reference to the foundational disease-specific care standards perfect for meetings or orientation and training. Standards address the areas of program management, delivering clinical care, supporting self-management, and clinical information management and performance measurement.

- **2016 Comprehensive Certification Manual for Disease-Specific Care Including Advanced Programs for Disease-Specific Care Certification:** Renamed in 2015, this manual features updated standards, elements of performance, and scoring. In addition to the foundational requirements all disease-specific care programs must meet, the following advanced certification program requirements are included:
  - Primary stroke centers
  - Comprehensive stroke centers
  - Heart failure
  - Inpatient diabetes care
  - Lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS)
  - Ventricular assistance device (VAD) for destination therapy
  - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
  - Chronic kidney disease

Tracers with AMP® can help organizations with compliance

Tracers with AMP®, a web-based quality compliance solution software, can help an organization with process improvement techniques of tracer methodology combined with the continuous compliance benefits of Accreditation Management Plus™.

Upcoming events

- **Behavioral Health Care Conference** — Set for Oct. 15-16 in Rosemont, the conference will focus primarily on person-centered care and how the accreditation standards can position organizations to provide state-of-the-art treatment. View a brochure detailing the conference and its schedule of events. Register.

- **Hospital Executive Briefings** — New York, Oct. 5. For those who are guiding their organization’s 2016 accreditation efforts, this event can help attendees prepare for a compliant, successful 2016. The event includes reviews of the most challenging standards, any changes coming in 2016, information about the new Physical Environment Portal, a session devoted to discovering the link between infection prevention and control standards, and a question and answer panel with leaders from The Joint Commission. Register: New York. Extend your knowledge on the same trip by attending a CMS update and a CJCP® Essentials Prep seminar.

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