New Note Clarifies Applicability of Revised NPSG.15.01.01

The Joint Commission added a Note to the recently revised National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) NPSG.15.01.01, Element of Performance (EP) 1 (see the underlined text in the following box). The Note clarifies the applicability of EP 1 for behavioral health care settings. This Note is effective July 1, 2019, along with the recent revisions to Standard NPSG.15.01.01.

The revision will be posted on the Prepublication Standards page of The Joint Commission website and will be published online in the spring 2019 E-dition® update to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Behavioral Health Care (CAMBHC). For customers who purchase it, the spring 2019 update for CAMBHC will include this addition.

Questions on this clarification may be directed to Stacey Paul, RN, MSN, APN, PMHNP-BC, clinical project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods.

Note Added to Provide Setting Applicability Clarification

Applyable to Behavioral Health Care Organizations

Effective July 1, 2019

National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG)

Standard NPSG.15.01.01: Reduce the risk for suicide.

Element of Performance for NPSG.15.01.01

1 The organization conducts an environmental risk assessment that identifies features in the physical environment that could be used to attempt suicide; the organization takes necessary action to minimize the risk(s) (for example, removal of anchor points, door hinges, and hooks that can be used for hanging). R

Note: Noninpatient behavioral health care settings and unlocked inpatient units do not need to be ligature-resistant. The expectation for these settings is that they conduct a risk assessment to identify potential environmental hazards to individuals served; identify individuals who are at high-risk for suicide; and take action to safeguard these individuals from the environmental risks (for example, removing objects from the room that can be used for self-harm and continuous monitoring in a safe location while awaiting transfer to higher level of care).