The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical *The Joint Commission Perspectives®*. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit [http://www.jcrinc.com](http://www.jcrinc.com).

### Standards Revisions Related to Life Safety Code Updates

**Applicable to Home Care Organizations**

**Effective July 1, 2017**

**Environment of Care (EC)**

**Standard EC.02.01.01**  
The organization manages safety and security risks.

**Note 1:** For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization complies with the 2012 edition of NFPA 99: Health Care Facilities Code. Chapters 7, 8, 12, and 13 of the Health Care Facilities Code do not apply.

**Note 2:** For further information on waiver and equivalency requests, see [https://www.jointcommission.org/life_safety_code_information_resources/](https://www.jointcommission.org/life_safety_code_information_resources/) and NFPA 99-2012: 1.4.

**Standard EC.02.05.09**  
The hospice inspects, tests, and maintains medical gas and vacuum systems.

**Note:** This standard does not require hospices to have the medical gas and vacuum systems discussed below. However, if a hospice has these types of systems, then the following inspection, testing, and maintenance requirements apply.

**Elements of Performance for EC.02.05.09**

1. In time frames defined by the hospice, the hospice inspects, tests, and maintains critical components of piped medical gas and vacuum systems, including the source, distribution, inlets/outlets, and alarms that protect the piped medical gas systems. These activities and results are documented.

2. The hospice tests piped medical gas and vacuum systems for purity, correct gas, and proper pressure when these systems are installed, modified, or repaired. The test results and completion dates are documented.

3. The hospice makes main supply valves and area shutoff valves for piped medical gas and vacuum systems accessible and clearly identifies what the valves control.

4. The hospice tests piped medical gas and vacuum systems for purity, correct gas, and proper pressure when these systems are installed, modified, or repaired. The test results and completion dates are documented.

5. The hospice implements a policy on all cylinders within the hospice that includes the following:
   - Proper handling and transporting (for example, in carts, attached to equipment, on racks) to ensure safety
   - Physically segregating full and empty cylinders from each other in order to assist staff in selecting the proper cylinder
   - Labeling empty cylinders
   - Prohibiting transfilling in any compartment with patient care

**Note:** For additional guidance, see NFPA 99-2012: 11.6.2; 11.6.2.3; 11.6.5; 11.6.5.2; 11.6.5.3; 11.7.3.2.

6. The hospice makes main supply valves and area shutoff valves for piped medical gas and vacuum systems accessible and clearly identifies what the valves control.

7. The hospice meets all other NFPA 99-2012: Health Care Facilities Code requirements related to gas and vacuum systems and gas equipment. (For full text, refer to NFPA 99-2012: Chapters 5 and 11)

**Note:** For hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Health Care Facilities Code Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) 12-4 and 12-6.

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**Key:** ⬇️ indicates that documentation is required; ⬆️ indicates an identified risk area
Equipment Management (EQ)

**Standard EQ.01.03.01**
The organization maintains, tests, and inspects the medical equipment it provides to patients.

**Element of Performance for EQ.01.03.01**
9. For hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets all other Health Care Facilities Code requirements for electrical equipment in the patient care vicinity as related to NFPA 99-2012: Chapter 10.

*Note:* The hospice meets the applicable provisions of the Health Care Facilities Code Tentative Interim Amendments (TIA) 12-5.

Life Safety (LS)

**Standard LS.01.01.01**
The organization designs and manages the physical environment to comply with the Life Safety Code.

*Note:* This standard applies only to facilities with hospice beds that are either in a freestanding, inpatient hospice facility or in a segregated hospice unit in a hospital or nursing home that is not accredited by The Joint Commission.

**Elements of Performance for LS.01.01.01**
2. In time frames defined by the organization, the organization performs a building assessment to determine compliance with the Life Safety chapter.

*Note:* For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization complies with the 2012 Life Safety Code.

4. When the organization plans to resolve a deficiency through a Survey-Related Plan for Improvement (SPFI), the organization meets the 60-day time frame.

*Note 1:* If the corrective action will exceed the 60-day time frame, the organization must request a time-limited waiver within 30 days from the end of survey.

*Note 2:* If there are alternative systems, methods, or devices considered equivalent, the organization may submit an equivalency request using its Statement of Conditions (SOC).

**Standard LS.02.01.10**
Building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke, and heat.

*Note:* The elements of performance of this standard apply only to the space in which the hospice unit is located, all exits from the unit to the outside at grade level, and any Life Safety Code building systems that support the unit (for example, fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system).

**Element of Performance for LS.02.01.10**
5. The fire protection ratings for opening protectives in fire barriers, fire-rated smoke barriers, and fire-rated smoke partitions are as follows:
   - Three hours in three-hour barriers and partitions
   - Ninety minutes in two-hour barriers and partitions
   - Forty-five minutes in one-hour barriers and partitions
   - Twenty minutes in thirty-minute barriers and partitions

*(For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 8.3.4; 8.3.3.2; Table 8.3.4.2)*

*Note 1:* Labels on fire door assemblies must be maintained in legible condition.

*Note 2:* For hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Health Care Facilities Code Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 12-1.

*Note 4:* For additional guidance on equivalencies, see NFPA 2012: 101:1.4.2.
Standard LS.02.01.20
The organization maintains the integrity of the means of egress.

**Note:** The elements of performance of this standard apply only to the space in which the hospice unit is located; all exits from the unit to the outside at grade level; and any Life Safety Code building systems that support the unit (for example, fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system).

**Element of Performance for LS.02.01.20**

1. Doors in a means of egress are not equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side, unless a compliant locking configuration is used, such as a delayed-egress locking system as defined in NFPA 101-2012: 7.2.1.6.1 or access-controlled egress door assemblies as defined in NFPA 101-2012: 7.2.1.6.2. (For full text, refer to NFPA 101-2012: 18/19.2.2.2.4; 18/19.2.2.2.5; 18/19.2.2.2.6)

   **Note:** For hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Life Safety Code Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 12-4.

Standard LS.02.01.30
The organization provides and maintains building features to protect individuals from the hazards of fire and smoke.

**Note:** The elements of performance of this standard apply only to the space in which the hospice unit is located; all exits from the unit to the outside at grade level; and any Life Safety Code building systems that support the unit (for example, fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system).

**Element of Performance for LS.02.01.30**

4. Where residential or commercial cooking equipment is used to prepare meals for less than 31 people in a smoke compartment, one cooking facility is permitted to be open to the corridor provided all criteria in NFPA 101-2012: 18/19.3.2.5.3 are met.

   **Note:** For hospices providing inpatient care in their own facilities that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The organization meets the applicable provisions of the Life Safety Code Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) 12-2.