COVID-19 Webinar for Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

October 1, 2020
Panel

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Topic for Today

Today’s webinar will be focused solely on ambulatory health care accreditation program related questions as they relate to COVID-19 and The Joint Commission.

For questions related to other accreditation or certification programs, please join us for those webinars.
The Joint Commission Return to Survey Activity

− In addition to conducting accreditation surveys, we have been advocating for the safety and well-being of healthcare workers at the highest levels of policy making.

− We want to assure you that we want to work together to reduce your risk and ours during the on-site survey process.
When and how will survey activity resume?

- Survey activity has started in low risk areas – includes all programs
- **Low risk criteria**
  - Number of COVID-19 cases are lower and less impact to organizations
  - The # of cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
  - Determination that our staff can travel to that area safely and find appropriate accommodations.
- In addition, your Account Executive will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that surveys are past their due dates, we will conduct those surveys when we are able.
- Prioritized initials and past due organizations. We will also be looking for organizations due in the next few months that meet the low risk criteria and are currently ready for survey.
What instructions have been provided to surveyors?

- Do not travel if you are sick
- Do not travel if you have been in close contact with known or suspected COVID-19 patients
- When traveling you are required to wear a mask/face covering
- **You are required to wear a mask on survey and follow the organization’s guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the surveyor as required by their policy.**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines
Survey/Review Process

- We will NOT enter an at risk or confirmed COVID-19 room.
- We will avoid visiting a unit/area with any confirmed COVID-19 patients when possible.
- Limit physical review of high risk and aerosol generating procedures
- Consider using a simulation and/or distant review of certain activities/procedures
- Practice social/physical distancing during the survey
- Follow “PPE” and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions (e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers)
- Limit observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the survey
Additional Information

- We would ask that you do not provide additional avoid dates due to the difficulty in scheduling surveys – avoid dates already submitted will be honored to the extent we can

- **Virtual surveys** – early surveys and initial surveys have occurred in some programs

- Virtual survey event is a combination of:
  - Secure Zoom technology for the survey and facility review
  - Use of a secure SharePoint site for document upload to review presurvey
  - Initial surveys conducted virtually will have a follow-up survey on-site.
  - Organization is contacted to verify ability and willingness to participate
Pre-Submitted Questions

• Did CMS approve for telesurvey?
• How much virtual survey do you anticipate, and which areas will be performed remotely? Are you looking for volunteers to test process?
• Will there be virtual site visits vs. on-site for triennial accreditation surveys?
• Can you please review how the survey process will work now with virtual surveys? Will there be any on-site activities?
Pre-Submitted Questions

• What will surveyors be looking for specifically on our next re-accreditation survey?
• During a survey, will infection control still be scrutinized for 2020 or will some sort of reprieve be given due to a facilities emergency operations plan in relation to COVID?
• What kind of documents will a surveyor look for regarding COVID-19? (staff, patient care, plans, operations etc.)?
Pre-Submitted Questions

• What is the survey process after COVID-19?

• If your visit is some time away, what documentation needs to be kept/logged to show what steps you took during the COVID pandemic?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Please give updates as to the current “catch up” status, will we still receive pre-scheduling calls from The Joint Commission liaison to determine safety of the survey? How are virtual surveys determined to be appropriate?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is a survey timeframe supposed to be provided once a readiness call is made by the account executive and the organization’s determined to be ready, or does the survey remain unscheduled and unannounced?
Pre-Submitted Questions

• Are you able to advise how long a triennial survey may be delayed due to COVID?

• If we are due for re-accreditation in June, when can we expect a potential survey?

• Are the Joint Commission surveys scheduled in mid-March 2021 going to be on schedule?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When do the 1135 waivers expire?
If a state health department has delayed renewing professional licenses for up to six months following the close of the current public health emergency, how should this be documented in credentialing and privileging records?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will there be an extension on temporary privilege timeframes?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Where can you find a detailed list of CMS waivers of Joint Commission standards?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Does The Joint Commission offer liaison services should questions arise prior to another webinar?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How are the 1135 waivers being handled? Are we allowed to use them for this year due to COVID?
Looking for more information on CMS 1135 Waivers?

Accredited organizations can learn more by visiting Resources and Tools > Tools > Learn More in their Joint Commission Connect® extranet site.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is screening of patients and staff for COVID required prior to entry into an ambulatory facility?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If there is not a screening requirement, what is recommended, and do you have suggestions on how this can be done efficiently?

Example* CDC’s process for screening prior to entry to their facilities: https://www.cdc.gov/screening/index.html

*Any examples are for illustrative purposes only and are not meant to represent an endorsement.
Pre-Submitted Questions

When is COVID testing of patients required?

If it is not required what are the guidelines for pre-surgical\pre-procedural testing?


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Pre-Submitted Questions

How often should healthcare professionals be tested and which test?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you release someone from isolation after a negative COVID test even if they test within hours of symptom onset?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the concerns for transmission of COVID-19 in dental practices?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the requirements and recommendations for dental practices?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If chemicals used for cleaning of medical equipment change due to shortages from the pandemic, does a letter need to be obtained from the manufacturer giving approval to use the new substitute chemical if it is not included in MIFUs?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the requirements for mopping of floors between patients on eye cases (mostly cataract procedures) at an Ambulatory Surgery Center that is only doing elective cases and prescreening for COVID-19?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How effective is the UV light for destroying SARS-CoV2

Pre-Submitted Questions

In order to improve turnaround time some organizations are having staff clean GI rooms, bring in clean covered scopes and start to set up while the patient is still in the room.

Is this an acceptable practice?
Section 5 Standard Precautions
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are cubicle curtains enough of a barrier between patients or do we need to have 6 feet between stretchers?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Once we use the inventory we have on site (e.g., drapes disinfectant wipes) our vendors have stated we are not a high yield center and therefore we cannot order any of the drapes or wipes we need for our cases.

Do you have any suggestions on how small centers can obtain supplies?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are antibiotics effective in preventing or treating COVID-19?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If you wore a mask and someone develops COVID-19, do you still need to quarantine?

Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the expectation for fit testing if an organization has staff who need to use respirators because they are performing aerosol generating procedures?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Which healthcare authorities should an organization rely on to make COVID decisions?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What kind of past infection control data will be requested during survey?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How will the impact of PPE shortage be addressed during surveys?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will there be specific Joint Commission standards developed related to COVID-19?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We have had to do some annual training virtually; will this be acceptable for sterilization training?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How long is the virus suspected to linger in the air and what is recommendation for turnaround time between bringing patients into the same procedure room?

Need to evaluate risk from aerosol generating procedures and determine if use of air exchange table would apply.

https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmen
tal/appendix/air.html
Pre-Submitted Questions

If the ASC was temporarily shut down to serve as a COVID-19 testing center, what should be documented? What are you going to look for?
Do you have any helpful resources for a COVID-19 functional exercise evaluation?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Updates to emergency preparedness plans?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Safety equipment? How will surveyors address gaps in testing of life engineering?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When do you consider a 02-tank empty? 700 pounds, 1,000 pounds, or as soon as it is in the red on the gauge?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you have any guidance for conducting evacuation drills? How do you make sure folks stay socially distanced and evacuate as quickly as possible? We are temperature checking everyone that comes in the building and experiencing significant crowds.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will existing centers who were constructed prior to 2016 be cited for having an EES type 3 system? Ambulatory Surgery Centers – Endoscopy only center.
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do you improve air exchanges (AEx) in an older building or a building the clinic is renting in? How many Aex do you recommend to fight COVID-19?
Ambulatory Care Conference: 
Live, Virtual Event

Date: November 5-6, 2020  
SKU: EDU2033  
Price: $599.00  
URL: https://store.jcrinc.com/ambulatory-care-conference-live-virtual-event-november-5-6-2020/

Who Should Attend? Any healthcare professional that is accredited by Joint Commission’s accreditation standards related to Ambulatory Care.

What Will You Learn? Program agenda listed on the website. One of the topics includes: “Use of Telehealth Medicine During the Pandemic”.

Thank You

We support your efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope to provide helpful resources
Resources

- COVID Resources
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/
- Standards Interpretation
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/