COVID-19 Webinar for Hospital Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

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Panel

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Associate Director Accreditation Accreditation and Certification Operations
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Pre-Submitted Questions

When will the 1135 waiver state of emergency be over?
Once our emergency operations plan is lifted, will we have a grace period to resume normal activity, before a survey? If so, how long should we expect?
Can you provide some guidance for not having much data for quarter 1 2020 due to no elective surgeries for 2 months?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Since CMS has published CoP waivers, will TJC publish a parallel document detailing how the TJC standards and EPs are also waived or modified? This will be helpful in maintaining and preparing documentation.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Would you please advise how surveyors will be educated regarding how to survey COVID-19 hospitals in downstate NY?
How long will these waivers be in effect for? Will it be until the state/federal emergency is over?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Suggestions on how to document and show evidence regarding waivers for surveyors?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will TJC be required by CMS to review a COVID-19 response plan during unannounced surveys? If so, what specifically will they be looking for?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will the revised/new BHC standards going into effect July 2020 be postponed until January 2021?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are the waivers related to documentation for only the surge areas in a hospital, or may the entire hospital adopt those measures? This is specifically related to the waivers in section c of the medical records.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Our governor in CT has ordered that all non-essential personnel/activities not be allowed into the active hospital until further notice, thus preventing much of our required testing. How will TJC/CMS view and handle this?
Please reinforce the timeframe that will not be surveyed. I understood just the pandemic period. Would you define pandemic timeframe?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Under the blanket waiver 42 CFR 482.24 (Medical Records), is all of (a) through (c) waived, or just the 30 days completion time frame? Are admission H&P’s waived?
What needs to be submitted under the 1135 waiver?
Pre-Submitted Questions

In a recent notice from TJC stating that surveys will resume in June, there is a statement that surveys will not look at retrospective compliance and will focus on how we dealt with the pandemic and current practices. Can you provide more details?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How can we best prepare for future TJC surveys?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We were due for our survey in July. What plans does TJC have for resuming surveys and how will this be communicated to organizations?
Pre-Submitted Questions

At what time should hospitals begin to check the website to see if a survey is to take place? We have stopped checking during this time of suspension. How do we add additional avoid dates at this time?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the TJC and CMS stance regarding outstanding Med/Def surveys?
Pre-Submitted Questions

With social distancing, what is TJC’s plan for surveying in psychiatric hospitals?
Pre-Submitted Questions

With the majority of non-patient care teams/departments having gone remote, do you foresee a new normal where hospitals reduce their overall size (i.e., parking issues) by keeping these teams remote? How would The Joint Commission address these changes?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How is this pandemic affecting current survey calendars?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When will TJC start surveying again? Are there any thoughts of virtual surveys?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Please share insight on how accreditation surveys will be conducted or how the survey process will look during this pandemic.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will the hospitals that have had their triennial survey postponed be given any type of warning of when normal survey activity will resume?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will you be sending out an updated schedule of surveys with the March changes and any revisions related to COVID-19?
I understand that organizations not in a window for surveying activity may be delayed up to six months, what is the anticipated impact for delays for organizations who are currently in a window for their Disease-Specific Care Certification renewal survey?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you have specific criteria of lifted restrictions before you can go into an area for survey? We are up for our first renewal, how much notice will we receive before the survey date is determined?
Since regular surveys will be resumed this year, how do you identify and prioritize low-risk areas within the hospital licensed areas to go in safely to survey?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When determining survey availability, is it the activation of the state emergency operation plan status or the hospital’s that TJC will be concerning?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Does TJC have an estimated time frame that scheduled re-certifications may be postponed? How will survey windows be impacted by this?
I would like to hear clarification of whether fire drills can be deferred?
Can we do silent fire drills between 1 am and 5 am, so we do not disturb the patients during their sleep hours?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can required fire alarm and suppression system testing (EC.02.03.05) requirements be pushed passed required thresholds due to positive tested COVID patients in quarantine/isolation?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Part 1 – Temperature barriers in corridors, temperature barriers blocking sprinklers, excessive corridor clutter, excessive PPE storage in non-hazardous areas, fire exits. Are there waivers or have they relaxed the regulations for any of these issues? Part 2 – ILSM’s for COVID-19 areas created for patients, how long can we keep these ILSM’s in place before having to make permanent changes. (Examples: suites too large, both suite doors exiting through another suite, temporary exit signage).
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will extension of time be granted for Ligature Risk Extension request due to manufacture shut down during COVID-19 and difficulty obtaining hardware?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How will deferred testing/inspection be reviewed by the Surveyors?
Why do some fire testing requirements need to be completed less than thirty days from SOE while others do not? I would prefer sprinkler vendor to test supervisory devices. This limitation does not seem to apply to other quarterly requirements.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Any new regulations for pandemic preparedness documentation?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Does the waiver of 42 CFR 482.41(d) for hospitals allow for hospitals to adjust/delay PMs for medical equipment?
When designing or renovating a hospital, what features should be considered to improve the hospital’s ability to respond to COVID-19 or another pandemic emergency?
Pre-Submitted Questions

For Engineering – Is it possible to retain window fans for negative pressure purposes post pandemic? What type of monitoring should be done and/or risk assessment prepared to justify leaving them in place?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is The Joint Commission position on temporary negative pressure control measures? Have they been successfully implemented? Have they been reliable? Any information about that?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We have established employee temperature check checkpoints in corridors, how can we document a risk assessment to address the life safety implications for having a chair and small desk in an egress corridor?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is Joint Commission’s position on COVID-19 with constant changes from the CDC?

Joint Commission Coronavirus website
https://www.jointcommission.org/en/covid-19/

Position Statement: Preventing Nosocomial COVID-19 Infections as Organizations Resume Regular Care Delivery
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the Joint Commission’s stance on face masks? What kind of face mask is acceptable and what isn't?

Are hospital staff allowed to wear their personal face masks while in the hospital?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the general guidance from TJC regarding PPE?
Pre-Submitted Questions

As more surgical masks are being manufactured and available to healthcare hospitals, are you recommending that we have our staff wear them instead of the cloth ones?

Is it ok for surgical masks to be worn at all times by front line staff?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Would like a discussion around use of N95 respirators for routine care for patients that are not receiving aerosol generating procedures. Due to severe shortages of N95, use of surgical masks is practiced. I would like to know how TJC is interpreting?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the stance on providing masks for non-symptomatic patients in the acute psychiatric setting?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are acceptable processes for demonstrating patient flow, social distancing in lobbies and still being in compliance with standards?

For example,

- Is tape on the floor to show patient flow in clinics ok?
- We have established employee temperature check checkpoints in corridors, how can we document a risk assessment to address the life safety implications for having a chair and small desk in an egress corridor?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the required screening process for staff in person or attestation? If in person, is active temperature taking required? What is the best way to accomplish?

What is the type of required documentation that is required for this? Please comment on using the “honor“ system for staff entering the facility and not causing congestion at the entrance to take temperatures?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Now that hospitals are ramping up again, what are two of the most important things medical and administrative staff need to keep in mind when dealing with patients returning to our facilities?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We started seeing patients here in the 5c clinic, can we at least wear surgical masks every day?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can organizations provide "limited" elective surgeries while we are still operating under contingency strategies for facemasks?
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/](https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/)

- Standards Interpretation
  - [https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/](https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/)