Accreditation

**Joint Commission achieves deeming authority for home infusion therapy**
The Joint Commission has achieved initial deeming authority from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for home infusion therapy for a period of four years. This makes The Joint Commission the first accrediting organization to successfully achieve deeming authority for home infusion therapy suppliers.

Starting Jan. 1, 2021, any home infusion therapy supplier that wants to obtain Medicare reimbursement for the nursing component of that service must be accredited by an accrediting organization that has been awarded deeming authority for home infusion therapy by CMS.

Organizations that achieve or maintain their existing Joint Commission Home Care Accreditation for home infusion services by this date will not need to complete a new survey. However, organizations not currently accredited but interested in obtaining Medicare reimbursement for the nursing component of the infusion therapy service through Joint Commission accreditation must participate in an unannounced Home Care survey and achieve a decision of ‘Accredited’ prior to submitting requests for reimbursement.

Learn more.

**Changes approved for National Patient Safety Goals for Home Care program**
The Joint Commission recently approved changes to its National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) for the Home Care Accreditation program. These changes go into effect July 1, 2020.

The changes include editorial revisions to:
- NPSG.03.06.01 — Accurate medication information
- NPSG.09.02.01 — Reducing risk of falls

View the prepublication standards. (Contact: Maureen Vance, mvance@jointcommission.org)

**Revisions made to align with CMS final rules on burden reduction, discharge planning**
In response to the final rules on burden reduction and discharge planning issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) late last year, The Joint Commission updated several of its standards to align with revised regulations for accreditation programs with deemed status and federally qualified health centers.

Requirements that have been finalized went into effect March 15 for home health and hospice organizations.

View the prepublication standards. (Contact: Laura Smith, lsmith@jointcommission.org)

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Webinar aims to help home care organizations improve performance on quality measures
Building on the release of the Accelerate PI™ dashboard report last year for accredited home health and hospice organizations, The Joint Commission launched supportive educational webinars in March.

Two webinars — one focusing on topics related to home health and the other on topics related to hospice — will be available to all accredited home health and hospice organizations. Complementary to the dashboard reports, these webinars are intended to be a springboard for conversations on data, performance measures and quality improvement — especially for organizations that may be struggling in these areas.

Representatives from accredited home health and hospice organizations will serve as speakers for the webinars to provide lessons learned and best practices.

Registration is open for the second webinar:
- March 31 — Haven Home Health and Compass Home Care

Join our home care-specific LinkedIn group
Calling all home care clinicians: Join your colleagues on The Joint Commission’s Home Care Accreditation LinkedIn group. Check out the page to follow along on industry conversations and to learn about upcoming educational opportunities.

Joint Commission Resources

Now available: 2020 Home Care Compliance Assessment Workbook
A newly updated, completely redesigned resource for Home Care-accredited organizations is available from Joint Commission Resources, Inc. The 2020 Home Care Compliance Assessment Workbook aims to help organizations with continuous standards compliance and survey readiness. The self-assessment workbook offers downloadable and customizable tools and templates to identify and address areas of noncompliance.

Key features of the workbook include:
- Accreditation chapter-specific mock tracer questions to help conduct mock tracers.
- Plan of Action Follow-Up worksheets to address areas requiring improvement.
- Required documentation worksheets to track elements of performance needing written documentation.

It is available in hard copy or as a writable pdf. A site license option also allows your accreditation prep team to share learning and data regardless of proximity to each other.

Learn more.