Quality and safety

New Sentinel Event Alert on optimizing smart infusion pump safety with DERS

Many medication errors can be prevented through safe medication practices. But sometimes these errors — including those involving “smart” infusion pumps — are caused by a combination of human and technical risk factors, including fatigue, distraction, and drug library overrides, deficiencies, or misuse.


Smart infusion pumps combine computer technology and drug libraries to limit the potential for dosing errors. Hospitalized patients commonly receive intravenous (IV) medications and fluids via smart infusion pumps, and errors involving the pumps occur each year. A study published in 2016 found that bypassing the smart infusion pump or the drug library accounted for about 10% of the total number of errors or policy violations relating to infusion administration. Smart pump errors can result in harm to patients that could be avoided by using built-in dose error reduction software (DERS).

Read Sentinel Event Alert.

Joint Commission recognizes Cesarean Awareness Month

April is Cesarean Awareness Month. The Joint Commission is recognizing this observance to help raise awareness and improve maternal-child health by preventing unnecessary C-sections.

The observance aligns with The Joint Commission’s ongoing maternal health efforts, including its new perinatal care standards for maternal hemorrhage and severe hypertension/pre-eclampsia, effective Jan. 1, 2021, and its recent public reporting of C-section rates and unexpected complications in term newborns.

During Cesarean Awareness Month, The Joint Commission is sharing resources it has created, including a Leading Hospital Improvement blog post, “Promoting Safer Cesarean Delivery,” by Susan Yendro, MSN, RN, Associate Director.

A new Take 5 series on maternal health also has been released:

- Take 5 on Cesarean Awareness Month: Public Reporting on PC-02 and PC-06
- Take 5 on Cesarean Awareness Month: Keeping New Parents Safe

In addition, The Joint Commission has Speak Up™ patient safety campaigns on the topic. The Speak Up: ABCs of C-sections and Speak Up For New Parents campaigns include:

- An animated video in both English and Spanish.
- An infographic in both English and Spanish.

Learn more about Cesarean Awareness Month.
Accreditation and certification

Heads-Up Reports now available for first quarter 2021

New Heads-Up Reports for first quarter 2021 are now available for all Joint Commission-accredited programs. The downloadable report is posted in the “Resources and Tools” section of an accredited organization’s secure Joint Commission Connect® extranet site.

Each program-specific report identifies important topics or themes that Joint Commission surveyors are noting and citing during recent surveys. The Heads-Up Report clarifies what standards are being cited and why they are being cited. Primary accreditation contacts are strongly encouraged to distribute each report to the departments and individuals in their organizations who are responsible for the topics identified and are empowered to mitigate any potential risks. By providing these resources, The Joint Commission encourages organizations to resolve similar issues in their own facilities prior to survey.

First quarter topics by program include:
- Hospital, Critical Access Hospital, Ambulatory Health Care, Home Care, Nursing Care Centers, and Office-Based Surgery programs: Infection prevention and control (IC) plans and activities (IC.02.01.01, elements of performance (EPs) 1 and 2).
- Behavioral Health Care and Human Services: Screening individuals for suicidal ideation using a validated screening tool (NPSG.15.01.01, EP 2)
- Laboratory: Inspecting, testing, and maintaining laboratory equipment for Environment of Care (EC) Standard EC.02.04.03, EP 7)

Register for ASC webinar on colonoscopy interval for high-risk patients

A webinar for ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) on colonoscopy interval for high-risk patients is scheduled for April 28. The hourlong webinar, which is part of the Continuous Customer Engagement (CCE) series for ASCs, will start at 9 a.m. PT/10 a.m. MT/11 a.m. CT/noon ET.

Bluffton Okatie Surgery Center, LLC, and Melbourne GI Center will present on the topic and answer questions. At the end of the webinar, participants should be able to:
- Apply concepts learned about evidence-based best practices regarding colonoscopy interval for high-risk patients in ambulatory health care organizations.
- Identify common performance and outcome challenges in colonoscopy interval for high-risk patients in ambulatory health care organizations.
- Prepare to implement at least one new best-practice related to colonoscopy interval for high-risk patients and improve outcomes in the learner's facility.

Register for the webinar.

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission

- **Quality in Nursing Center Care** — Vaccine Hesitation Among Senior Living and Home Care Workers: COVID-19 vaccination rates for workers in nursing homes lags that of health care workers in general. Record numbers of nursing home residents have been vaccinated, but it is still noted that 39% of workers surveyed do not plan to take the shot. While the rate of refusal decreases with every survey, every denied vaccination opportunity represents an increased risk to the fragile population in senior living and home care settings, writes Gina Zimmermann, Executive Director, Business Development, Nursing Care Center Services.
- **At Home with The Joint Commission** — Home Care Organizations Speak Out on Changes that will Endure Post-COVID: As the COVID-19 emergency stretches into a second year, it is interesting to look back on the impact to different health care sectors. Last fall, The Joint Commission contracted with C + R Research to survey 735 respondents representing a variety of health care settings, including hospitals, home care, behavioral health and human services, and ambulatory care, writes Gary Bachrach, Executive Director, Business Development, Home Care Accreditation.
• **Improvement Insights** — *What’s in a Name? Names and Roles on Surgical Caps*: In the study, “What’s in a name? Enhancing Communications in the Operating Room with the use of Names and Roles on Surgical Caps,” found in the April issue of *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, the authors sought to assess providers’ acceptance of wearing labeled caps and studied the impact labeled caps had on communication in the OR, writes Laura Brodzinsky, MD.

Learn more about Joint Commission Resources’ offerings online or call 877-223-6866.