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Save the Date

Please note: While the information below is a list of planned programs for 2014, at this time not all programs can be accessed online for registration.

Nov. 10 Statewide Perinatal Safety Collaborative – Fall Learning Session

Nov. 11 A Call to Action: Advance Care Planning Provider Summit

Nov. 19 2015 Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Update

Nov. 20 Patient and Family Engagement across the Continuum and Across Cultures in N.J.

Dec. 1 Honoring our Military: Caring for Those Who Have Served

[Click here to register.](#)

N.J. Advances to Third in Nation for Reducing Anti-Psychotic Meds in Nursing Homes

New Jersey has achieved a new level of success in working to reduce the use of antipsychotic medications in nursing homes. Based on the data release for the second quarter of 2014 by the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes, New Jersey advanced from fourth to third place in the nation.

The statewide average utilization of these medications with long-stay nursing home residents is 14.2 percent, which represents an almost 21 percent decrease since the second quarter of 2011.

In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that the Partnership had achieved its initial goal for reducing the use of antipsychotic medications with long term nursing home residents by 15 percent. CMS simultaneously established a new goal of reducing the use of antipsychotic medications in long-stay nursing home residents by 25 percent by the end of 2015, and 30 percent by the end of 2016.

TJC's New Hospital Accreditation Chapter Increases Focus on Patient Safety

The Joint Commission has published a new "[Patient Safety Systems](#)" chapter in its 2015 *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*. The chapter is designed to inform and educate healthcare providers about the importance and structure of an integrated patient-centered system that aims to improve quality of care and patient safety.

The chapter has three guiding principles:

- Aligning existing TJC standards with daily work in order to engage patients and staff throughout the healthcare system, at all times, on reducing harm.
- Assisting healthcare organizations with advancing knowledge, skills and competence of staff and patients by recommending methods that will improve quality and safety processes.
- There are no new requirements in the Patient Safety Systems chapter.

To underscore the importance of a patient-centered safety system, TJC will make this new [chapter](#) available online indefinitely.

UCSF Researchers Log 2.5 million Patient Alarms in One Month

Alarm fatigue continues to be a problem for hospitals, so much so that last fall, it topped the ECRI Institute's annual list of technology hazards. To that end, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, monitored one month's worth of alarms at the facility to determine the alarm causes, as well as potential solutions to fatigue.

In a [study](#) published last week in *PLOS ONE*, researchers logged more than 2.5 million hours of patient-monitoring alarms over 31 days. The alarms were used for 461 patients in five intensive care units at UCSF Medical Center. According to the report, many of the alarms were caused by inappropriate user settings and computer algorithm deficiencies.

In a subset of more than 1.1 million arrhythmia alarms, 88 percent were found to be false positives due to computer algorithm deficiencies.

Boston Medical Center was able to reduce audible alarms in its cardiac unit by 89 percent, with no adverse events, using a series of interventions aimed at reducing alarm fatigue. A patient early warning detection system that alerts hospital staff to minor changes in a patient's condition helped St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Michigan slash mortality rates by 35 percent.