



November 18, 2014 ■ Issue 124

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Nov. 19 2015 Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Update
Nov. 20 Patient and Family Engagement across the Continuum and Across Cultures in N.J.

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The Joint Commission: Evidence-Based Care Reaps Positive Results

Evidenced-based care is taking hold at more and more hospitals, according to the Joint Commission's 2014 annual [report](#), "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety."

According to the report, the adoption of evidence-based care processes has improved care overall for common conditions such as pneumonia, asthma in children, heart failure and surgery.

The report analyzes data from more than 3,300 Joint Commission-accredited hospitals around the country, including 1,224 recognized as "top performers" in key quality measures based on how well they meet accountability measures for treating several common conditions. That's an 11 percent increase from last year, according to the accrediting agency, and represents 37 percent of all accredited hospitals that reported accountability measure performance data for 2013.

This year TJC also increased its core measurement set requirements from four to six.

Mark Chassin, MD, president and CEO of TJC, noted that areas for improvement included better consistency in quality and safety performance across the board, and care and discharge plans for patients with conditions such as childhood asthma and psychiatric disorders.

Governor Christie Signs CARE Act

Last week, Gov. Christie signed the CARE Act into law to promote the designation and education of caregivers to assist discharged hospital patients.

The measure requires hospitals to give every patient in an inpatient setting an opportunity to designate a caregiver, usually a family member or friend of the patient. Hospitals are required to give those designated caregivers education and information on post-discharge care needed at home.

The law allows either in-person or technology-based instruction for the caregivers. The law also requires hospitals to notify caregivers prior to patient discharge. The requirements take effect in less than six months.

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