The Joint Commission
Getting Started on Sepsis Certification

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The Joint Commission

Empowering health care organizations and their leadership to make significant progress toward zero harm.
Accreditation vs. Certification

- Accreditation Surveys
  - Organization-wide evaluation of care processes and functions

- Certification Reviews
  - Product or service-specific evaluation of care and outcomes
Certification Eligibility

Any disease-specific care program in a Joint Commission accredited facility that has

- Formal program structure
- Standardized method of clinical care delivery based on clinical guidelines/evidence-based practice
- Organized approach to performance measurement
Certified Programs (as of 6/13/17)

- 3,661 certified programs in all categories
- 50 Sepsis programs certified
  - Nothing in Pennsylvania (so far)
Benefits of Certification

- Builds the structure required for a systematic approach to clinical care
- Reduces variability and improves the quality of patient care
- Pushes you to look at yourself more closely
- Creates a loyal, cohesive clinical team
- Promotes a culture of excellence across the organization
- Provides an objective assessment of clinical excellence
- Promotes achievement to your marketplace
Core Program Components

- Standards
- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Performance Measures
Core Program Components

Standards
Disease-Specific Care Standards

- Program Management
  7 standards

- Delivering or Facilitating Clinical Care
  6 standards

- Supporting Self-Management
  3 standards

- Clinical Information Management
  5 standards

- Performance Improvement and Measurement
  6 standards
Core Program Components

Clinical Practice Guidelines
Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Patient care must be based on guidelines / evidence-based practice
  - [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov)
- Program identifies the guidelines it will use
- On-site review validates:
  - Implementation of CPGs
  - Rationale for selection / modification
  - Monitoring & improving adherence
Clinical Practice Guidelines – Sepsis Example

Core Program Components

Performance Measures
Performance Measurement: Criteria

- Four process or outcome measures to monitor on an ongoing basis
- Two of the measures must be clinical
- Other two measures can be clinical, administrative, utilization, or satisfaction
- Any existing measures may be used
  - Keep in mind the performance improvement aspect
Performance Measurement: Process

- Define measures at time of application
- Share 4 months of data at initial onsite visit
- Monitor data monthly
- Share 12 months of data one year after achieving certification
What Makes a Good Performance Measure?

- Results can be used for improvement
- Relates to current medical evidence
- Defined specifications
- Data collection is consistent and logical
http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov
Performance Measure Examples

- Patients with sepsis bundle ordered and completed accurately within 3 hours of time zero.
- Number of patients with evidence of notification to practitioner within 30 minutes of positive sepsis screening.
- Number of patients with evidence of sepsis-specific teaching once during visit and at discharge.
Preparation Tips

- Review the standards in the *Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual*
- Contact the Standards Interpretation Group: 630-792-5900, [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org) “Ask a Standards Question”
- Submit Performance Measure questions to [http://manual.jointcommission.org](http://manual.jointcommission.org)
Preparation Tips

- Conduct a gap analysis of current state versus the expectations of the standards.
- Conduct a mock certification review. Document areas of potential compliance or noncompliance.
- Develop preparation action plans from the results of the gap analysis and mock review and determine your certification timeline.
Application Timetable

- Think ahead – by what date do you want certification achieved?
- Submit application 5-6 months before your desired date.
  - Tell The Joint Commission what month you want review done
The On-Site Evaluation

Activities:
- Program overview
- Patient tracers
  - Engaging practitioners and patients
- System tracer on data use
- Competency assessment and credentialing

Educational Opportunities

One day per program
Advertise Your Achievement
Questions

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