New and Revised Requirements for The Joint Commission
Advanced Palliative Care Certification Program

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Current Advanced Palliative Care Certification (Hospital) program:
Based on National Consensus Project (NCP) Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for Quality Palliative Care (PC); Implemented 2011

Project scope – Update current requirements using:
• Updated 2013 NCP CPGs
• NHPCO Standards of Practice for Pediatric Palliative Care (2009)
• Current literature
• Best practices
• Input from PC experts and stakeholders

Areas of focus identified:
• Clarify the requirements
• Expansion of PC across continuum
• PC pediatric requirements needed

Gap analysis:
Comparison of research to current requirements to determine need for revisions and new requirements

Main areas identified for modification:
• Admission assessments to be completed by interdisciplinary team members
• Provision of or referral process for hospice care
• Provide or refer family for bereavement services
• Orientation and ongoing education
• Use of trained volunteers
• Specific pediatric requirements

New Palliative Care requirements developed
Based on the information obtained, the program requirements were revised in order to:
• Address and clarify the main focus areas
• Enhance the program according to new CPGs
• Improve customer understanding and compliance

Vetting new/revised requirements
• Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of national experts
• Field Review survey to obtain feedback from customers and stakeholders
• Feedback from TAP and Field Review used to finalize standards for leadership approval

Analysis of Compliance Since 7/1/15

Compliance with revised requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard/EP</th>
<th>Comparison of noncompliance rates: 1/1-12/31/14 to 7/1-10/15/15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCPC.3, EP2</td>
<td>↓ 26% to 9%</td>
</tr>
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<td>PCPC.3, EP9</td>
<td>↓ 17% to 4%</td>
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<td>PCPC.4, EP7</td>
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<td>PCPC.5, EP4</td>
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<td>PCIM.2, EP2</td>
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Final Steps:
• Revisions made to review process to address new requirements
• Final requirements approved by The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners November 2014
• Advanced Palliative Care Certification reviewers educated on new requirements and survey process
• Requirements implemented July 1, 2015

Next Steps:
• Pilot testing in process:
  Standardized performance measures for the hospital Advanced Certification program (implementation planned mid-2016)

• In development:
  New Community-Based Palliative Care “add-on” Certification for accredited Home Care organizations (implementation planned mid-2016)

• Plan for 2016:
  Expand the current Advanced Certification program for organizations that provide Palliative Care in the hospital and a variety of other settings: ambulatory clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and hospice (implementation – to be determined)