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Accreditation

Joint Commission announces accreditation of DaVita Inpatient Dialysis Units

For the first time, The Joint Commission has awarded Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation to an inpatient kidney care provider, DaVita Hospital ServicesSM. Denver-based DaVita[®], with nearly 700 sites located in Joint Commission-accredited hospitals across the U.S., is a division of DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc. This achievement involved two and a half months of surveys at more than 175 DaVita inpatient dialysis sites. Accreditation can assist the hospital partners in risk management and reduction, and survey preparedness. It also complements a hospital's Joint Commission hospital accreditation and does not replace or diminish a hospital's current or future accreditation. DaVita, its hospital partners and other entities have committed to using The Joint Commission's ambulatory standards as a framework to systematically monitor and evaluate the quality and safety of kidney care therapies. Continuous compliance with accreditation standards is designed to improve the quality and safety of the inpatient dialysis environment in a hospital setting. To locate a DaVita inpatient dialysis unit accredited by The Joint Commission, go to www.qualitycheck.org. The Joint Commission is pleased to formally introduce to the kidney care community an ambulatory care accreditation process, and national standards for patient safety and quality, for this special population of patients being served in either inpatient or ambulatory settings. For more information, see [Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation](#) or email AHCquality@jointcommission.org. Read the entire [press release](#). (Contact: Michael Kulczycki, mkulczycki@jointcommission.org)

Certification

In development: Behavioral Health Home Certification

The Joint Commission is developing a new Behavioral Health Home Certification product to recognize organizations that have successfully integrated primary physical and behavioral health care. The optional certification will go above and beyond what is required for accreditation and provide additional recognition. If approved, The Joint Commission will begin offering this new certification option for organizations accredited under its Behavioral Health Care Accreditation program beginning January 1, 2014. Work is underway to develop the standards and on-site survey process. Input has been gathered from experts on the various models of behavioral health homes and from organizations accredited under The Joint Commission's behavioral health care accreditation program and that are in the early stages of offering these services. A [field review](#) to solicit feedback on the proposed standards is now taking place. Once approved, the prepublication standards will be posted on the website in summer 2013, with final publication in fall 2013 in the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Behavioral Health Care*.

The Affordable Care Act has enabled many states to establish behavioral health homes. Behavioral health homes integrate physical health care services with behavioral health care which can improve the quality of life for individuals by providing preventive care and coordinated treatment that addresses the needs of the whole person. Behavioral health home providers do not need to provide all the services themselves, but must ensure that the full array of primary and behavioral health care services is available and coordinated. For more information, see [Facts about The Joint Commission Behavioral Health Home Certification](#). (Contact: Mary Cesare-Murphy or Peggy Lavin at BHC@jointcommission.org, or your organization's account executive at 630-792-3007)

Resources

Coming soon! Updated Joint Commission Connect extranet

The Joint Commission Connect extranet site is being updated and is currently undergoing pilot testing. Customer input is being used to guide the new design, and to ensure ease of use. Planned updates include:

- A more user-friendly log-in page
- Posting on the home page of scheduled events for organizations
- Improved “look and feel”
- A dashboard view (for users with access to multiple health care organizations)
- One click to applications
- A “My Favorite Apps” tool to customize and easily access your most-used applications
- Improved security function to more easily add and update users
- A streamlined view for new customers to start the accreditation and certification process

Look for progress updates on the improved Connect over the next few weeks. (Contact: Eric Danielson, edanielson@jointcommission.org)

New on the web

- [Replay of the April 23, 2013 Lab teleconference, “What’s New and Improved for 2013?”](#)
- [Replays of monthly Bureau of Primary Health Care Technical Assistance Teleconferences](#)
- [Primary Care Medical Home \(PCMH\) Certification Self Assessment](#) - This tool can be used to assess elements of performance (EPs) of the standards for the PCMH certification option for hospitals. EPs are the actions, processes and structures that must be implemented to achieve a standard.
- Blog posts:
 - Ambulatory Buzz - [Safety culture project seeks ambulatory pilots: the juice is definitely worth the squeeze](#)
 - Musings Ambulatory Patient Safety - [Guest Blogger Darrell Anderson: Voice of a Consumer – My Own](#)

What we’re hearing

“All of our interactions with The Joint Commission have been positive – the website, extranet, account executive, email, the survey, and surveyors. I would recommend Joint Commission accreditation, without reservation, to anyone because they are very easy to do business with.” – Leslie Bachmann, CMOM, practice manager, Skin Surgery Center of Virginia, Henrico, Va.

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