

professionals, including a physician, nurse, life safety code specialist, or hospital administrator who has senior management level experience.

Joint Commission surveys are unannounced, with a few exceptions. An organization can have an unannounced survey between 18 and 36 months after its previous full survey. For example, if an organization's last survey was January 1, 2011, it could have its survey as early as July 1, 2012 or as late as January 1, 2013 (18 to 36 months). During an accreditation survey, The Joint Commission evaluates an organization's performance of functions and processes aimed at continuously improving patient outcomes.

This assessment is accomplished through evaluating an organization's compliance with the applicable standards in the manual, based on the following:

- Tracing the care delivered to patients
- Verbal and written information provided to The Joint Commission
- On-site observations and interviews by Joint Commission surveyors
- Documents provided by the organization

About The Joint Commission

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of hospitals. The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission also certifies more than 2,400 disease-specific care programs such as stroke, heart failure, joint replacement and stroke rehabilitation, and 400 health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in healthcare.

Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

For further details, please call June Perez at 647-2415 or june.perez@gmha.org.

◆◆◆◆◆*End of Release*◆◆◆◆◆