



August 21, 2012

Dear Colleague:

The Joint Commission's Board of Commissioners voted at its August 11 meeting to suspend ORYX non-core measure reporting requirements for accredited Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals effective January 1, 2013.

The decision to suspend non-core measure reporting requirements is in response to the evolving national measurement priorities and the field's growing concerns over disparate data collection and reporting requirements. It is The Joint Commission's intent to support and build upon the emerging national measurement priorities and the move to the use of standardized federally mandated performance measures for Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities.

During this suspension, The Joint Commission will continue to closely monitor the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rules making process respecting the reporting of standardized federally mandated measure data by Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities and assess the applicability of those measures in Joint Commission accreditation-related activities. Accredited Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities will not be required to participate with a Joint Commission listed vendor and transmit aggregate monthly data to The Joint Commission on non-core performance measures during this suspension.

As standardized federally mandated measures are identified, final measure reporting requirements and a timeline for their implementation will be established. This timeline will be influenced by the CMS rule making process and is anticipated to result in the suspension of Joint Commission measure reporting requirements for calendar year 2013. During this time, The Joint Commission also will explore available options for obtaining data on the federally mandated measures in the most efficient and effective manner possible to include receiving data directly from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), and/or directly from affected organizations.

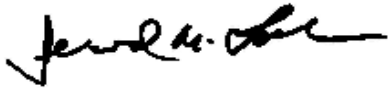
The Joint Commission will keep its accredited Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities apprised of developments as they become available. In the interim, accredited LTACHs and IRFs will be expected to meet performance measurement and improvement requirements through ongoing compliance with the "Performance Improvement" (PI) standards until a more appropriate and useful approach is identified and implemented.

If you have questions, please contact:

**Long Term Acute Care Hospitals and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities** – Frank Zibrat, Associate Director, Accreditation Systems Integration and ORYX, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, [fzibrat@jointcommission.org](mailto:fzibrat@jointcommission.org), 630-792-5992.

**ORYX Vendors** - Mary Kay Bowie, BSN, MHSA, RN, CPHQ, Associate Director, Center for Measurement System Operations, Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation, [mbowie@jointcommission.org](mailto:mbowie@jointcommission.org), 630-792-5974.

Sincerely,



Jerod M. Loeb, PhD  
Executive Vice President  
Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation



Mark G. Pelletier, RN, MS  
Chief Operating Officer  
Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations