



## Standards Changes for Organizations Providing Diagnostic Imaging Services

The Joint Commission recently approved standards changes for accredited **hospitals**, **critical access hospitals**, and **ambulatory care** organizations that provide diagnostic imaging services, including those ambulatory organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification. The changes will be effective July 1, 2014, with additional requirements to be phased in by 2015.

The standards changes relate to quality and safety issues that either needed to be more fully addressed (given the evolution of health care delivery practices) or that expand upon current Joint Commission requirements (such as those related to magnetic resonance imaging [MRI]). Because of the scope of this work, standards changes will be addressed using a phased approach. The first phase of these standards changes focuses on computed tomography (CT), nuclear medicine (NM), positron emission tomography (PET), and MRI services. The second phase of this work, to be implemented in 2015, will focus on fluoroscopy, minimum qualifications for clinicians who perform imaging exams, and cone beam CT.

Areas addressed in the new and revised standards include the following:

- Minimum competency for radiology technologists, including registration and certification by July 1, 2015
- Annual performance evaluations of imaging equipment by a medical physicist

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- Documentation of CT radiation dose in the patient's clinical record
- Meeting the needs of the pediatric population through imaging protocols and by considering patient size or body habitus when establishing imaging protocols
- Management of safety risks in the MRI environment
- Collection of data on incidents during which identified radiation dose limits have been exceeded

The new and revised elements of performance (EPs), listed in the table on page 19, are **effective July 1, 2014**, and will be displayed on the Joint Commission's website at [http://www.jointcommission.org/standards\\_information/prepublication\\_standards.aspx](http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx). The requirements will also be published in the spring 2014 E-dition® updates for ambulatory care organizations, critical access hospitals, and hospitals as well as in the *2014 Update 1* to the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual* for these programs.

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**Standards Changes for Organizations Providing Diagnostic Imaging Services  
(continued)**

**New and Revised Requirements for Diagnostic Imaging Services**

Standard	EP	Ambulatory Care		Critical Access Hospital		Hospital		Standard	EP	Ambulatory Care		Critical Access Hospital		Hospital		
		New	Revised	New	Revised	New	Revised			New	Revised	New	Revised	New	Revised	
EC.02.01.01	14		X	X		X		HR.01.05.03	14	X		X		X		
	16	X		X		X			25	X		X		X		
EC.02.02.01	17	X		X		X		MM.06.01.01	13	X		X		X		
EC.02.04.01	7		X	X		X			PC.01.02.15	5		X		X		X
EC.02.04.03	15		X	X		X		6			X		X		X	
	17		X		X		X	7			X (deleted)		X (deleted)		X (deleted)	
	19	X		X		X		10		X		X		X		
	20	X		X		X		12		X		X		X		
	21	X		X		X		PC.01.03.01		25	X		X		X	
	22	X		X		X				26	X		X		X	
	23	X		X		X		PI.01.01.01		46	X		X		X	
EC.02.06.05	4	X		X		X			47	X		X		X		
HR.01.02.05	19	X		X		X		PI.02.01.01	6	X		X		X		
	20	X		X		X										