



APPROVED: “Infection Prevention and Control” (IC) Chapter Fully Revised for BHC Organizations and OBS Practices

Effective July 1, 2025, a fully revised “Infection Prevention and Control” (IC) chapter, including new and revised requirements, has been approved for all Joint Commission–accredited **behavioral health care and human services (BHC)** organizations and **office-based surgery (OBS) practices**. The IC chapter rewrite continues the project that includes new and revised requirements that replaced current IC requirements for critical access hospitals and hospitals (see the January 2024 issue of *Perspectives*) and assisted living communities, home care organizations, and nursing care centers (see the July 2024 issue of *Perspectives*).

Effective and well-organized IC practices are needed to ensure patient safety in BHC settings and OBS practices where infection risks may arise from invasive procedures, preexisting infections, close physical proximity in residential and group settings, and other situations. The goal of the IC chapter rewrite is to help organizations develop a strong framework for their IC activities and remove requirements that do not add value to accreditation surveys. The changes are consistent with The Joint Commission’s ongoing initiative to simplify its requirements and provide more meaningful evaluations of health care organizations.

The Joint Commission also created a new IC Assessment Tool that details the IC practices, structures, and documentation needed to meet the IC requirements. The tool includes components that may be evaluated during survey and standard/element of performance (EP) locations for scoring. The tool was developed using the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Core IC Practices and relevant regulations. The new tool will be posted to Joint Commission–accredited organizations’ *Joint Commission Connect*® extranet site by January 1, 2025, and added to the *Behavioral Health Care and Human Services* and *Office-Based Surgery Survey Activity Guides* in spring 2025.

The new and revised requirements, a program-specific guide showing where concepts from the old EPs have moved in the new EPs, and behavioral health care and human services applicability information will be posted on the [Prepublication Standards](#) page of The Joint Commission’s website. The new and revised requirements will publish online in the spring 2025 E-dition® update to the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Behavioral Health Care and Human Services (CAMBHC)* and *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Office-Based Surgery Practices (CAMOBS)*. For those customers who purchase it, the 2025 CAMBHC spring update service will include these new and revised requirements.

For more information, please contact The Joint Commission’s [Global Accreditation and Certification Product Development](#). 