

R3 Report

REQUIREMENT, RATIONALE, REFERENCE

A complimentary publication of Joint Commission

Issue 33, December 17, 2021

Published for Joint Commission-accredited organizations and interested health care professionals, R3 Report provides the rationale and references that Joint Commission employs in the development of new requirements. While the standards manuals also may provide a rationale, R3 Report goes into more depth. The references provide the evidence that supports the requirement. R3 Report may be reproduced if credited to Joint Commission. Sign up for [email](#) delivery.

Nursing Care Center Accreditation Standards

Effective July 1, 2022, all Joint Commission-accredited nursing care centers (NCCs) will have 29 new and 55 revised standards and elements of performance (EPs) that will span multiple accreditation manual chapters. The revisions reflect the most current clinical practice guidelines and best practices for infection control, dementia care, staff recruitment, retention and wellness, pressure injuries, and medication safety. As part of the standards review process, Joint Commission looked at key topics that are most likely to impact the quality and safety of patients and residents in the long-term care and memory care settings. Several of the updates also reflect lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, there will be 10 new and 4 revised EPs for NCCs that participate in the Memory Care Certification program that align with the Alzheimer's Association's dementia care practice recommendations. These new and revised standards were designed with the primary goal of improving quality and safety in these settings.

To provide support to organizations implementing these new requirements, we have added additional resources and tools at the end of this R3.

Engagement with stakeholders, customers, and experts

In addition to a review of the scientific literature and practice guidelines from nationally recognized industry leaders, Joint Commission also conducted the following field reviews:

- Public Field Review open to all professionals with expertise in the long-term care and memory care settings. The field review was posted on Joint Commission's website, posted on LinkedIn, and sent to accredited NCCs and NCCs certified in memory care.
- [Standards Review Panel \(SRP\)](#) experts in the field of long-term care and dementia care who provided a "boots on the ground" point of view and insights into the practical application of the proposed standards.

The prepublication version of the revised requirements will be available online until June 30, 2022. On July 1, 2022, please access the new requirements through E-dition or the standards manual.

Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Nursing Care Centers

Requirement

For the NCC accreditation project, 84 new and revised standards and EPs were developed, and 5 EPs were removed or consolidated. All new and revised requirements can be found on the [Prepublication Standards](#)

page of Joint Commission's website until June 30, 2022. On July 1, 2022, please access through E-dition or the standards manual.

Rationale

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the long-term care industry was heavily impacted by the effects of the virus. Post-pandemic analysis exposed weaknesses in care practices and emergency preparedness. Some of the weaknesses were a result of long-standing industry challenges such as insufficient staffing and the lack of resources. In addition, new challenges like social isolation emerged as organizations worked diligently to keep their staff, patients/residents, and community safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and their linked resources were primary sources of information for our standards review.

The pandemic also illuminated the negative effects on staff and staffing, including retention and recruitment, which are still posing challenges for the long-term care industry. The pandemic also showed the importance of having an emergency preparedness plan that includes staff contingencies and safe practices during infectious disease outbreaks and other emergencies. Lastly, the pandemic also revealed strains on staff wellness and the importance of providing support and resources for staff so that they do not become demotivated or experience physical or mental burnout.

Pressure injuries continue to be a high-risk factor for patients and residents in long-term care because of compromised body systems related to aging and/or illness and medical device use. The National Pressure Injury Advisory Council released an updated version of their pressure injury guidelines in 2019. The NCC standards address prevention and treatment practices aimed at reducing the incidence of pressure injuries and, when they occur, to prevent them from worsening and becoming life altering or even deadly.

Joint Commission also reviewed all NCC standards related to dementia care to make sure they aligned with the latest evidence, including the most recent Dementia Care Practice Recommendations from the Alzheimer's Association.

References*

- Bedhold, B. E., Deodhar, K. S., Davis, C. M., DiRenzo, B. M., Isaacs, A. N., Campbell, N. L. (2020). Deprescribing opportunities for elderly inpatients in an academic, safety-net health system, *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*, 17(3): 541–544. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sapharm.2020.04.029>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html#visitation>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Using Personal Protective Equipment. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
- Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes. Commission Final Report. Sep 2020.
- Di Giulio, P., Finetti, S., Giunco, F., Basso, I., Rosa, D., Pettenati, F., Toscani, F. (2019). The impact of nursing homes staff education on end-of-life care in residents with advanced dementia: A quality improvement study. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 57(1): 93–99. [doi:10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.10.268](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.10.268)
- Reeve, E., Thompson, W., Farrell, B., Deprescribing: A narrative review of the evidence and practical recommendations for recognizing opportunities and taking action, *European Journal of Internal Medicine*, 38, 3–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejim.2016.12.021>.

- European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel and Pan Pacific Pressure Injury Alliance (2019). Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries: Clinical Practice Guideline. The International Guideline. Emily Haesler (Ed.). EPUAP/NPIAP/PPPIA; 2019.
- Gandhi, A., Yu, H., Grabowski, D.C. (2021). High Nursing Staff Turnover In Nursing Homes Offers Important Quality Information. *Health Affairs*, 40(3): 159-169. [doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00957](https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00957)
- Gaeun, K., Mikyung, P., Kyungwon, K. (2020). The Effect of Pressure Injury Training for Nurses: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*, 33(3): 1-11. doi:10.1097/01.ASW.0000653164.21235.27
- Jacobsen, F. F., Mekki, T. E., Førland, O., Folkestad, B., Kirkevold, Ø., Skår, R., Tveit, E. M., & Øye, C. (2017). A mixed method study of an education intervention to reduce use of restraint and implement person-centered dementia care in nursing homes. *BMC Nursing*, 16(55). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12912-017-0244-0>
- Kim, G, Park, M, Kim, K. The Effect of Pressure Injury Training for Nurses: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*; 33(3): 1-11. [doi: 10.1097/01.ASW.0000653164.21235.27](https://doi.org/10.1097/01.ASW.0000653164.21235.27). PMID: 32058443. [doi:10.1097/01.ASW.0000653164.21235.27](https://doi.org/10.1097/01.ASW.0000653164.21235.27)
- National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care. Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, 4th edition. Richmond, VA: National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care; 2018. <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/ncp>. 2018). National Consensus Project
- Thompson, W., & Farrell, B. (2013). Deprescribing: What is it and what does the evidence tell us?. *The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, 66(3), 201–202. <https://doi.org/10.4212/cjhp.v66i3.1261>

NCC Memory Care Certification (MCC)

Requirement

For the NCC Memory Care project, 14 new and revised standards and EPs were developed. All new and revised requirements can be found on the [Prepublication Standards](#) page of Joint Commission’s website until June 30, 2022. On July 1, 2022, please access through E-dition or the standards manual.

Rationale

Best practices for dementia care continue to evolve as the scientific evidence evolves and expands. Therefore, it is important to continually incorporate the latest evidence and best practice guidelines into the Memory Care Certification standards. In our efforts to keep the MCC program current and relevant, Joint Commission reviewed the latest version of the Alzheimer’s Associations (ALZ) recommendations and then made revisions to the standards in collaboration with ALZ.

References*

- Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations (2018). *Gerontologist*, 58: S1, S1–S9. [doi:10.1093/geront/gnx182](https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx182)

*Not a complete list of references.

Additional Resources

EM.02.02.03, EP 6

A personal protective equipment burn rate calculator can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

HR.01.04.01, EP 26

The “Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care,” 4th edition, published by National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care is a recognized resource for palliative care guidelines.

HR.01.04.01, EP 3

The Stop and Watch Early Warning Tool part of the INTERACT pathway, a tool for nonlicensed staff to use to recognize and report a change in a patient’s or resident’s condition.

HR.01.05.03, EP 24

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ “Hand-in-Hand” training toolkit; “Bathing Without a Battle” video; the “Mouthcare Without a Battle” video; and the Alzheimer’s Association essentiALZ® certification program found at alz.org.

IC.01.01.01, EP 3

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course at https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814.

IC.02.01.01, EP 2

For further information regarding standard infection prevention and control precautions, and guidance on donning and doffing of personal protective equipment, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s site <https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/recommendations/core-practices.html>.

IC.02.01.01, EP3

For further information regarding transmission-based precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/index.html>

IC.02.01.01, EP12

One way to stay informed is to participate in CDC and local Health Alert Networks <https://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/>

IC.02.03.01, EP3

Information regarding emerging infection diseases can be obtained from local health authorities or on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website <https://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/>.

LD.03.01.02, EP 1

Pioneer Network’s Artifacts of Culture Change Self-Assessment Tools; Eden Alternative Principles in Action tool; and Long-Term Care Improvement Guide, published by Planetree and Picker Institute.

PC.01.02.01, EP 54

Assessment tool examples include the Person-Centered Care Assessment Tool (P- CAT), Artifacts of Culture Change Self-Assessment Tools from Pioneer Network, Nursing Home Staff Competency Assessment from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS), and the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool-Treatment (MacCAT-T).

PC.02.02.02, EP 3

The essentiALZ® Alzheimer’s Association training and certification found at alz.org.

Nursing Care Center Accreditation and NCC Memory Care Certification Standards

Nursing Care Center Accreditation Program

Standards Review Panel (SRP) Members:

Jane Carmody, RN, DNP, MBA (The John A. Hartford Foundation)

Penny Cook, MSW (Pioneer Network)

Joan Devine, BA, BSN, MA (Pioneer Network)

Kathleen Fogarty, MS, RD (Department of Veterans Affairs – retired)

Cathy Lieblich, MA (Pioneer Network)

Nancy Lundebjerg, MPA (American Geriatrics Society)

Doug Pace, NHA (Alzheimer's Association)

Barbara Resnick, RN, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP (American Geriatrics Society)

Emily Roberts, PhD (Oklahoma State University)

Jean Stephens, BSN, RN-BC, RAC-CT, CLNC, CLSSYB (Opis Senior Services)