



APPROVED: “Infection Prevention and Control” (IC) Chapter Fully Revised for Additional Accreditation Programs

Effective January 1, 2025, a fully revised “Infection Prevention and Control” (IC) chapter has been approved for all Joint Commission–accredited **assisted living communities, home care organizations, and nursing care centers**. The IC chapter rewrite continues the project that began for critical access hospitals and hospitals (see the January 2024 issue of *Perspectives*), which includes new and revised requirements that replace current IC requirements.

Effective and well-organized IC practices in nonhospital settings are needed to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death for patients and residents. The goal of the IC chapter rewrite was to help organizations develop a strong framework for their IC activities, while aligning requirements more closely to law and regulation and the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation (CoPs) for home health agencies, hospices, home infusion therapy, and long-term care facilities.

In keeping with the ongoing initiative to simplify standards content and structure, The Joint Commission eliminated requirements that do not add value to accreditation surveys so that organizations can focus on the structures that support IC quality and safety. Elements of performance (EPs) related to waste management and responding to an influx of potentially infectious patients also were removed from the IC chapter because they were redundant to existing Environment of Care (EC) and Emergency Management (EM) requirements.

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/EP locations for scoring. The tool was developed using regulations, the CMS Long Term Care Infection Control Worksheet, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core IC Practices. The new tool will be posted to Joint Commission–accredited assisted living communities’, home care organizations’, and nursing care centers’ *Joint Commission Connect*® extranet site in July 2024, and added to the *Assisted Living Community, Home Care, and Nursing Care Center Accreditation Survey Activity Guides* in mid-December 2024.

The new and revised requirements, a program-specific guide showing where concepts from the old EPs have moved in the new EPs, and service applicability information for home care organizations will be posted on the [Prepublication Standards](#) page of The Joint Commission’s website. The requirement will publish online in the fall 2024 E-dition® update to the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Assisted Living Communities (CAMALC)*, *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Home Care (CAMHC)*, and *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Nursing Care Centers (CAMNCC)*. For those customers who purchase them, the 2025 hard-copy and PDF versions of CAMALC, CAMHC, and CAMNCC will include these new and revised requirements.

For more information, please contact The Joint Commission’s [Standards and Survey Methods](#). 