Healthcare Environmental Compliance and Improvement:
A guide to improving compliance with JCAHO Environment of Care Standards

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How is H2E working with JCAHO?

- H2E has a grant from the US EPA that funded the development of an “Environmental Compliance and Improvement Guide” that aims to help healthcare professionals link environmental requirements more closely with JCAHO standards so that the maze of regulatory issues is more manageable.

- The grant also aims to provide education and training to JCAHO surveyors and healthcare professionals on environmental regulations.
Environmental Compliance Violations found in Region 2: Primarily NY and NJ

MEDIA

%VIOLATIONS

- 61.4%
- 13.9%
- 8.9%
- 11.9%
- 2.0%
- 2.0%

CAA
CWA
EPCRA
RCRA
SDWA
TSCA
Regulatory Compliance in Healthcare

- Healthcare has flown under the regulatory radar for years…

- Mid 1990’s EPA had focus on Colleges and Universities -- overlapped with university hospitals…

What they found:

- 1 out of 2 hospitals has a penalty violation

- Compared to 1 out of 30 in general industry
What does that have to do with Joint Commission?

Inspected hospitals expressed confusion that despite just “passing” JCAHO, they still had significant compliance violations under EPA.

- Shouldn’t JCAHO have told us or cited us?

- It must not be that important since JCAHO didn’t survey on environmental compliance.

- Confusing maze of who regulates what.
Compliance…

- is NOT Voluntary…

- ‘Compliance’ is a term used for both JCAHO and other regulatory requirements -- JCAHO is typically reliant on other regulatory statutes for its elements of performance.

- BUT JCAHO Surveyors are not expected to be defacto inspectors for other regulatory agencies, like EPA

- OSHA: Bloodborne Pathogens, HazCom
- RCRA
- EPCRA
- CAA
- CWA
- SPCC
- DOT
- HIPAA
JOINT COMMISSION vs. EPA (or other regulatory agencies)

- How much money is spent in your organization preparing for JCAHO?
- Now, how much money is spent in your facility trying to meet EPA compliance obligations or developing pollution prevention programs?
- Now compare resource allocations…
Two Birds with One Stone

• While preparing for Joint Commission… **incorporate** environmental requirements.

• Use JCAHO’s emphasis on Environment of Care (EOC) and environmental requirements to leverage **resource support** for environmental compliance and pollution prevention programs.

• Use environmental programs as **performance improvement initiatives** for the Joint Commission.
How does the JCAHO Guide Work?

JCAHO standards address an organization’s performance in key functional areas. Each standard is presented as a series of "Elements of Performance" (EP) -- expectations that establish the broad framework that JCAHO surveyors use to evaluate a facility's performance.

Many of the environmentally relevant Elements of Performance fall under the Environment of Care (EC) standard, but others are included in the Human Resources (HR) and Leadership (LD) standards.

The Guide relates each JCAHO Element of Performance to specific federal regulations, to help facilities be in compliance with both.
Symbols in JCAHO Guide

= Compliance

= Environmental Improvement

= Tools and Resources
ENIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

To improve compliance with JCAHO Environment of Care Standards

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Please note: this page is under development. Contact Laura Brannen, (603) 795-9966, if you have questions or suggestions.

Introduction      Topic Locator

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- Environment of Care Standards
- Human Resources Standards
- Leadership Standards

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<td>EC 1.10.1 Written management plan for environmental safety</td>
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## Choose a Standard.

### JCAHO Standards

#### Environment of Care Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EC 1.10</th>
<th>The organization manages safety risks.</th>
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<td>EC 1.10.1</td>
<td>Written management plan for environmental safety</td>
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<td>EC 1.10.2</td>
<td>Safety Coordinator</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EC 1.20</th>
<th>The organization maintains a safe environment.</th>
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<tr>
<td>EC 1.20.1, 4, 5</td>
<td>Environmental tours</td>
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<thead>
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<th>EC 2.10</th>
<th>The organization identifies and manages its security risks.</th>
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<td>EC 2.10.1</td>
<td>Written management plan to effectively manage security risks</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC 2.10.6</td>
<td>Control of entrance and egress from security-sensitive areas</td>
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| EC 3.10.1 | Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan |
| EC 3.10.2 | Hazardous Materials and Waste Inventory |
| EC 3.10.3 | Implementation of Hazardous Materials and Waste Program |
| EC 3.10.4 | Space & Equipment for Handling of Hazardous Materials & Waste |
| EC 3.10.5 | Hazardous Gases and Vapors |
| EC 3.10.6 | Procedures and Implementation for Emergency Response |
| EC 3.10.7 | Documentation, Permits and Licenses |
| EC 3.10.8 | Manifest Management |
| EC 3.10.9 | Labeling of Hazardous Materials and Waste |
| EC 3.10.10 | Hazardous Materials and Waste Storage |

### Human Resources Standards

<table>
<thead>
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<th>HR 2.10</th>
<th>Staff members, students and volunteers are oriented to their jobs as appropriate and the work environment before providing care, treatment and services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.10.1</td>
<td>Staff oriented to organization’s mission and goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.10.2</td>
<td>Staff oriented to organization’s policies and procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.10.9</td>
<td>Organization assesses competency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HR 2.20</th>
<th>Staff members, students and volunteers can describe or demonstrate their roles and responsibilities based on their job duties, relative to safety.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.20.1</td>
<td>Describe and demonstrate environment risks</td>
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<td>HR 2.20.2</td>
<td>Demonstrate actions to eliminate and minimize risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.20.3</td>
<td>Demonstrate procedures to follow in event of incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 2.20.4</td>
<td>Knowledgeable regarding reporting processes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Leadership Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LD 1.30</th>
<th>The organization complies with applicable law and regulation.</th>
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<tr>
<td>LD 1.30.1</td>
<td>Services provided in accordance with rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD 1.30.2</td>
<td>Organization acts upon reports, recommendations as appropriate</td>
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</table>
Leadership Standard: Compliance Counts

Guide to JCAHO Leadership Standard 1.30

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Checklist for 1.30.1 and 1.30.2

Leadership Standard 1.30: The organization complies with applicable law and regulation.

Element of Performance 1: Services provided in accordance with rules

The organization provides all services in accordance with applicable licensure requirements, law, rules, and regulations.

This page provides a set of criteria for evaluating how well a facility complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.

(See also Element of Performance 2, below)
Joint Commission Standards and Elements of Performance

Guide to JCAHO Environment of Care Standard 3.10.3

Environment of Care Standard 3.10: The organization manages hazardous materials and waste risks

Element of Performance 3. Implementation of Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste Program

The organization establishes and implements processes for selecting, handling, storing, transporting, using and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes from receipt or generation through use and/or final disposal, including managing the following: chemicals, chemotherapeutic materials, pharmaceuticals, radioactive materials and infectious and regulated medical waste including sharps.

This page provides a set of criteria for evaluating how well a facility has implemented its procedures for managing hazardous materials and waste. The criteria have been grouped into categories covering:

- general management topics (procuring, handling, and disposing of various classes of waste)
- specific materials and wastes of concern
- facilities and equipment

Categories:
- Hazardous Materials Management
  - Materials of Concern
    - Asbestos
  - Compliance
  - Environmental Improvement
  - Tools and Resources
Hazardous Waste

Facility has plans on file, readily accessible by appropriate staff, for:

Hazardous waste management

- annually determining hazardous waste generator status.
  - Hazardous waste definition: 40 CFR 261.3
  - Standards for CESQGs 40: CFR 261.5
  - Hazardous waste (standards for generators, index page): 40 CFR 262

- working toward smaller quantity generator status by minimizing hazardous materials and waste.

- making hazardous waste determinations by applying knowledge or testing.
  - Implementation: EC3.10.3
  - Documentation: EC3.10.7
  - Hazardous waste definition: 40 CFR 261.3
  - Standards for CESQGs: 40 CFR 261.5

- managing hazardous waste, including tracking, storing, inspecting, recycling, treating, and disposing.
  - Hazardous waste (standards for generators, index page): 40 CFR 262

- eliminating mercury.
  - Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E): Mercury Virtual Elimination Plan
Understand the Links

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  - Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E): Mercury Virtual Elimination Plan

Click on blue link: EPA Reference
Takes you straight to CFR citation for that requirement!
Understand the Links

Recordkeeping and reporting
The facility has obtained an EPA Identification Number.

HERC: Managing Hazardous (RCRA) Wastes (EPA ID)
EPA ID number: 40 CFR 262.12

Generator status is determined and reviewed monthly.

HERC: Managing Hazardous (RCRA) Wastes (Generator status)
Determining generator status is an implicit requirement for compliance with hazardous waste accumulation time: 40 CFR 262.34
Reporting for SQGs: 40 CFR 262.44, and other regulations.

Facility is working toward moving to smaller quantity generator status by minimizing hazardous materials present on site.

- H2E's Chemical Minimization Plan has department-specific hazardous chemical minimization tips.

Click on teal link: HERC Reference
Generator Status

In order to regulate the over 800,000 hazardous waste generators in the United States cost effectively, EPA in 1985 established three types of generators:

*Conditionally-Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CE-SQG)* who generate less than 100 kg of non-acute hazardous waste a month, less than 1 kg of acute hazardous waste a month (e.g. p-listed wastes such as epinephrine) and less than 100 kg of residues or contaminated soil, waste, and other debris from the spill cleanup of acute hazardous waste;

*Small Quantity Generators (SQG)* who generate between 100 kg and 1000 kg of non-acute hazardous waste a month, less than 1 kg of acute hazardous waste a month, and less than 100 kg of spill residue from acute hazardous waste; and

*Large Quantity Generators (LQG)* who generate 1000 kg or more of non-acute hazardous waste a month, 1 kg or more of acute hazardous waste a month, and 100 kg or more of spill residue from acute hazardous waste.

A CE-SQG is exempt from the regulation as long as it complies with the set of regulations described in Section 261.5. Hence the name *conditionally-exempt* small quantity generator. An SQG must meet limited requirements in Part 262. These reduced requirements for SQGs are to ensure that while some tracking of and accountability for the waste is placed on the small quantity generator, the requirements are not so burdensome as to prevent compliance. An LQG, of course, must meet the full set of Part 262 requirements.
Understand the Links

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Click the green link: JCAHO Reference
The Green Links

- The Joint Commission divides the universe in one way (with a focus on patient safety); RCRA divides it another way (with a focus on managing hazardous waste).

- Some RCRA compliance bullets relate to several JCAHO EPs, so they are repeated (with minor variations).

- The green links take you to similar bullets in other JCAHO EPs, so you can compare similar compliance items in different contexts.
Other tools for JCAHO

• Write up Environmental Programs as Performance Improvement Initiatives

• H2E has sample write-ups for Performance Improvement Initiatives on:
  – Regulated Medical Waste Reduction
  – Mercury Elimination
  – Glutaraldehyde Elimination

• Willing to help develop more!!
Give us Feedback on the Guide!

• Still a draft.

• Is it useful?

• Is it confusing?

• Suggestions for additional tools and resources?