What is the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations?

The mission of the Joint Commission is to improve the quality of health care for the public by providing accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 18,000 health care organizations in the United States, including hospitals, health care networks, managed care organizations, and health care organizations that provide home care, long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory, and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization, and the nation's oldest and largest standards setting and health care accrediting body.

Joint Commission evaluation and accreditation services are provided for:

- General, psychiatric, children's and rehabilitation hospitals;
- Health care networks, including health plans, integrated delivery networks and preferred provider organizations;
- Home care organizations, including those that provide home health services, personal care and support services, home infusion and other pharmacy services, durable medical equipment services, and hospice services;
- Nursing homes and other long term care facilities, including subacute care programs, dementia programs and long term care pharmacies;
- Behavioral health care organizations, including those that provide mental health, chemical dependency, and mental retardation/developmental disabilities services for patients of various ages in various organized service settings; and managed behavioral health care organizations;
- Ambulatory care providers, including outpatient surgery facilities, rehabilitation centers, infusion centers, group practices and others; and
- Clinical laboratories.

Accreditation by the Joint Commission is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality which indicates that an organization meets certain performance standards. To earn and maintain accreditation, an organization must undergo an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years.

All of the above information is taken directly from the JCAHO homepage.

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What is the 'Management of the Environment of Care'?

- Providing a safe, functional, and effective environment for patients, staff members, and other individuals in the organization.

What does the Joint Commission look for in the Environment of Care?

- Design of facilities and management plans
● Implementation of plans; staff education; drills and inspection, testing and maintenance

● Measurement of performance and improvement

● Social Environment

● No smoking policy

What is the JCAHO Environment of Care design?

● Statement of Conditions

● Life Safety Code Compliance

● Management plans developed

What are the seven management plans that the JCAHO requires?

● Emergency Preparedness

● Hazardous Materials/Waste

● Life Safety

● Medical Equipment

● Safety

● Security

● Utility System

What is the JCAHO Environment of Care Measurement?

● Information collection and evaluation system

● Performance standards and indicators

● Performance improvement

What is the JCAHO Environment of Care Social Environment?

● Establish social environment for patients to support the facility's mission and services

What is the Environment of Care Implementation?

● Management plans implemented
Sample Medical Equipment Management Plan:

**Purpose:**
The purpose of the Medical Equipment Management Plan of XYZ Medical Center is to establish a Medical Equipment Management Plan to manage the risk posed by electrical devices and to record and document all findings thus creating a safe environment for patients, employees, and visitors and providing high quality patient care.

**Support Statement:**
XYZ Medical Center has made a commitment to establish and support a Medical Equipment Management Plan that is based on monitoring and evaluation of organizational experience, applicable laws and regulations, and accepted practice and to develop and maintain a program to assure the well being of personnel, patients, and visitors.

**Responsibility:**
The Director of Support Services of XYZ Medical Center is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the hospital’s Medical Equipment Management Plan.

**Functions:**

- Establish, support and maintain a Medical Equipment Management Plan.
- Select and acquire medical equipment.
- Establishing written criteria to identify, evaluate, and inventory medical equipment to be included in the Medical Equipment Management Plan.

This criteria addresses:

- Equipment function (diagnosis, treatment and monitoring).
- Physical risks associated with equipment during usage.
- Equipment incident history.
- Equipment maintenance requirements.
- Assesses and minimizes the clinical and physical risks associated with medical equipment through inspection, testing, and maintenance of equipment and education of users and maintainers of medical equipment.
- Monitors and acts on as appropriate medical equipment hazard notices and recalls.
- Monitors and reports incidents in which a medical device may have caused or contributed to the death, serious injury, or serious illness of a patient or another individual, as required by the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990.
- Reports and investigates Medical Equipment Plan problems, failures, and user errors that have or may have an adverse effect on patient safety and/or the quality of care.
• Requires an annual evaluation of the objectives, scope, performance, and effectiveness of the documented Medical Equipment Management Plan.