

The Joint Commission: Navigation Guide

This guide serves as a tool for accessing The Joint Commission (TJC) website.

Overview

The Joint Commission (TJC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization established in 1951. In the United States, it accredits and certifies over 22,000 healthcare organizations and programs. Internationally, the Joint Commission International (JCI) division extends these services to more than 1000 healthcare organizations, agencies and ministries. The Joint Commission is governed by a 21-member Board of Commissioners, made up of physicians, administrators, nurses, employers, quality experts, consumer advocates, and educators. To obtain the *Gold Seal of Approval*® from The Joint Commission, an organization undergoes an on-site survey by a Joint Commission survey team at least every three years (Laboratories are surveyed every two years).

Significance

The Joint Commission is focused on evaluating and promoting quality and patient safety within healthcare organizations. The Joint Commission is recognized as an authoritative body in the healthcare industry. Noncompliance with The Joint Commission standards can result in potential loss of reimbursement from government programs and insurance companies, and a negative impact on reputation. The Joint Commission standards can indirectly influence a hospital's decision-making process during bid proceedings. Hospitals may consider a vendor's ability to support their efforts in meeting the Joint Commission requirements for ensuring patient safety and quality of care.

Healthcare Accrediting Organizations

Accrediting organizations may vary depending on the state, type of healthcare facility, and specific programs or functional areas within hospitals. Examples include the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC), National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), Council on Accreditation (COA), Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC), Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality (CIHQ), American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), etc. It is important to note, that accrediting bodies differ in profit structure, government deeming powers, practice targets, and partnering associations.

How Does Vizient Support Member Compliance Journey?

Vizient's Healthcare Accreditation Services offers an advisory and consultative fee-for-service program. It includes a multidisciplinary team of accreditation advisors who have combined experience in law enforcement, worksite security, risk management, employee health, and clinical and patient safety. This team helps assess, build, and maintain continuous patient safety and regulatory compliance. Visit [Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Services \(vizientinc.com\)](https://www.vizientinc.com/healthcare-facilities-accreditation-services) for more information.

The role of the Clinical Solutions team (author of this guide) within The Center of Sourcing Excellence (COE) is to utilize clinical expertise to focus on strategic sourcing and procurement activities for Vizient members. This involves researching information on the latest product regulatory requirements, as well as working in tandem with Vizient Category Managers and Contract Managers to evaluate the product and service quality of bidding suppliers. For any questions regarding this guide, please contact Clinical Solutions, Sourcing Center of Excellence, at clinicalsolutions@vizientinc.com.

Navigation Guide

Understanding the intricate navigation of The Joint Commission site can be daunting, requiring familiarity with its structure, content organization, and search functionalities. The aim of this resource guide is to help demystify the process by clarifying some of the intricacies of navigating The Joint Commission website, empowering users to efficiently locate pertinent information and utilize these invaluable resources more effectively.

[Accreditation:](#) This domain provides information about the accreditation process. It outlines the eligibility requirements, criteria, and directions for the application & verification process. It helps organizations understand the expectations of the survey process and allows them to prepare accordingly. A list of accredited and certified organizations by TJC can be found [here](#).

[Certification:](#) This domain provides information on the certification process for organizations that excel beyond accreditation and demonstrate a commitment to providing consistent quality care. TJC offers various certifications that range from those related to specific diseases or conditions such as stroke and heart failure to rehabilitation. A list of the review process and a list of certifications can be found [here](#).

[Standards:](#) This domain covers various clinical topics, including evidence-based practice, clinical guidelines, and best practices, (e.g. [Sentinel Event Policy](#)). This link offers resources to support healthcare professionals in delivering high-quality care, improving outcomes, and ensuring adherence to established standards of care. One example is the R3 Report (Requirements, Rationale, and References), which provides in-depth information about new or revised accreditation standards, National Patient Safety Goals, and other requirements which serve as the basis for the evaluation process. National Patient Safety Goals will be explored in greater detail in this guide.

[Performance Measurement:](#) This domain provides information on standardized core performance measures, data collection, and reporting requirements. Resources are available to assist healthcare organizations to identify areas for improvement as well as the implementation of quality improvement initiatives. Detailed specification manuals for electronic measures can be found [here](#).

[Publications:](#) This domain highlights research initiatives in healthcare quality and safety. It provides access to research findings, books, practical checklists, and tools from TJC and its partners, promoting continuous learning and improvement in healthcare through evidence-based practices and emerging trends.

[Continuing Education:](#) This domain focuses on education and training programs related to healthcare quality and patient safety. It provides information on education events, webinars, and online courses offered by TJC. These resources aim to enhance the knowledge & skills of healthcare professionals and support their professional development.

[Complimentary Resources:](#) TJC offers supplemental services to accredited and non-accredited members. Information on propriety business intelligence tools, historical aggregate survey findings, official TJC newsletters, and readiness roadmap can be found [here](#).

[News:](#) This domain provides news articles, press releases, and announcements related to healthcare advocacy efforts, patient safety, and industry trends. It provides information and raises awareness of legislative and regulatory initiatives that impact healthcare organizations and professionals, and how to adapt the latest regulatory practices accordingly.

[Joint Commission International:](#) This domain focuses on the international efforts of The Joint Commission. It provides information on international accreditation, programs, collaborations, and global efforts aimed at improving healthcare quality and patient safety in healthcare organizations outside of the United States.

2023 National Patient Safety Goals

Every year The Joint Commission publishes [National Patient Safety Goals](#) (NPSGs) to help accredited organizations recognize and address specific areas of concern related to patient safety. NPSGs are posted at the beginning of each year for implementation the same year. In addition, TJC addresses these areas of concern by recommending steps to reduce risk and prevent future occurrences communicated through [Sentinel Event Alert Newsletters](#). For the clinical resource guide of 2022 National Patient Safety Goals and corresponding Vizient Contracts, click [here](#).

****Please note TJC periodically revises goals. As a part of this process, certain goals may be modified, integrated with another goal, or eliminated based on changes in evidence and healthcare practices. As a result, the assigned goal number may no longer be applicable. Please see the TJC website for detailed information about each goal.*

Goal 1: Improve the accuracy of patient identification.

NPSG.01.01.01: Use at least two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment, and services. Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Laboratory, Nursing Care Center, Office-Based Surgery

Goal 2: Improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers.

NPSG.02.03.01: Report critical results of tests and diagnostic procedures on a timely basis. Applies to: Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Laboratory

Goal 3: Improve the safety of using medications.

NPSG.03.04.01: Label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings. Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Office Based Surgery

NPSG.03.05.01: Reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with the use of anticoagulant therapy.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Nursing Care Center

NPSG.03.06.01: Maintain and communicate accurate patient medication information.

Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Nursing Care Center, Office Based Surgery

Goal 6: Reduce patient harm associated with clinical alarm systems.

NPSG.06.01.01: Improve the safety of clinical alarm systems. Applies to: Critical Access Hospital, Hospital

Goal 7: Reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections.

NPSG.07.01.01: Comply with either the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines or the current World Health Organization (WHO) hand hygiene guidelines. Applies to: Ambulatory, Assisted Living Community, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Home Care, Hospital, Laboratory, Nursing Care Center, Office-Based Surgery

Goal 9: Reduce the risk of patient harm resulting from falls.

NPSG.09.02.01: Reduce the risk of falls. Applies to: Assisted Living Community, Home Care, Nursing Care Center

Goal 14: Prevent healthcare-associated pressure ulcers (decubitus ulcers).

NPSG.14.01.01: Assess and periodically reassess each patient's and resident's risk for developing a pressure ulcer and take action to address any identified risks. Applies to: Nursing Care Center

Goal 15: The organization identifies safety risks inherent in its patient population.

NPSG.15.01.01: Reduce the risk for suicide. Applies to: Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital

NPSG.15.02.01: Identify risks associated with home oxygen therapy, such as home fires. Applies to: Home Care

Goal 16: Improve healthcare equity.

NPSG.16.01.01: Improving healthcare equity for the organization’s patients is a quality and safety priority. Applies to: Ambulatory, Behavioral Health and Human Services, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital *Effective July 1, 2023

**A note from the author: All information in this guide is publicly available at www.jointcommission.org.

Vizient Contract Resources

Vizient provides access to these products from the following supplier(s):

Supplier	Supplier	Contract #	Expiration Date
Goal 1 Patient Identification	Zebra Technology International LLC	MS6373	09/30/2024
	Typenex Medical, LLC	MS6372	06/30/2025
	Precision Dynamics Corporation	MS6371	06/30/2025
Goal 2 Caregiver Communication	Patient Engagement Centers of America Inc., (D/B/A PEC360)	SV6070	04/30/2026
Goal 3 Medication Safety	Shamrock Scientific Specialty Systems, Inc.	MS1178	02/28/2026
	RR Donnelley & Sons Company	MS1177	02/28/2026
	RR Donnelley & Sons Company	MS1177AA	02/28/2026
	Precision Dynamics Corporation dba PDC Healthcare	MS1176	02/28/2026
Goal 6 Clinical Alarm Systems	Crest Electronics d/b/a Crest Healthcare Supply	CE7672	03/31/2028
	ASCOM (US), Inc.	CE7671	03/31/2028
	West-Com Nurse Call Systems Inc	CE7677	03/31/2028
	Rauland-Borg Corporation	CE7675	03/31/2028
	RF Technologies, Inc.	CE7676	03/31/2028
	Hill-Rom	CE7673	03/31/2028
	Patient Engagement Centers of America Inc., (D/B/A PEC360)	SV6070	04/30/2026
Goal 7 Healthcare Associated Infections	Jeron Electronic Systems	CE7674	03/31/2028
	Symmetry Hand Hygiene - A Buckeye International Inc. Company	MS9829	06/30/2026
	Kimberly-Clark Corporation	MS9826	06/30/2026

	Ecolab Inc	MS9823	06/30/2025
	Betco Chemical	MS9821	06/30/2024
	Diversey Inc	MS9822	06/30/2026
	Henkel Corporation	MS9825	06/30/2026
	SC Johnson Professional, Inc.	MS9828	06/30/2026
	Medline Industries, LP	MS9827	06/30/2026
	GOJO Industries Inc	MS9824	06/30/2026
	3M Company	MS7256	03/31/2026
Goal 9 Fall Risk Reduction	Stanley Security Solutions Inc	CE3180	06/30/2025
	Posey Products, LLC	MS4530	06/30/2025
Goal 14 Pressure Ulcer Prevention	Molnlycke Healthcare US, LLC	MS8144	12/31/2024
	DeRoyal Industries	MS8141	12/31/2024
	EHOB	MS8142	12/31/2024
	Medline Industries, LP	MS8143	12/31/2024
	Sage Products, LLC	MS8145	12/31/2024
	Back For More, LLC dba Jewell Nursing Solutions	CC0031	08/31/2024
Goal 15 Patient Safety Risk	Signet Health Corporation	SV0871	08/31/2025
	Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.	SV2670	08/31/2025
	Agiliti Health Inc.	CE7071	09/30/2024
	US Med-Equip, LLC	CE7073	09/30/2024
	Agiliti Surgical, Inc.	SV1830	02/28/2026

[See all resources](#)

For more information, [contact us](#).

As the nation’s largest member-driven healthcare performance improvement company, Vizient provides solutions and services that empower healthcare providers to deliver high-value care by aligning cost, quality and market performance. With analytics, consulting and a robust sourcing portfolio, we help members improve patient outcomes and lower costs.