Joint Commission Launches Innovative New Pioneers in Quality Program
New Initiative Will Assist Hospitals in Adapting to Rapid Changes in Performance Measurement

(OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois – February 16, 2016) The Joint Commission announced today it is launching an innovative new program called Pioneers in Quality to provide education and support for hospitals as they strive to meet the growing requirements for electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs).

The new program is being launched while the organization’s Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® recognition program is on hiatus. During that time, the program will be revamped to better reflect the evolving national measurement environment. Similarly, the Pioneers in Quality program will support current and future Top Performer hospitals as they also adapt to this new environment and make the changes necessary to align Joint Commission reporting requirements with the changes to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

“The Joint Commission is excited to launch Pioneers in Quality to help hospitals meet the new demands for quality measurement through eCQMs,” said David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP, executive vice president, Division of Health Care Quality Evaluation, The Joint Commission. “Through a variety of educational offerings, we will work with individual experts and health care organizations that have successfully used eCQMs for quality measurement and improvement and share their lessons learned so other hospitals can meet this challenge. We hope all Joint Commission hospitals will take advantage of the Pioneers in Quality resources.”

During the last two years, CMS has made significant changes to the performance measures in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, including retiring a number of chart-based measures. The Joint Commission made many of these same changes to maintain
alignment with CMS, and we introduced the Flexible Reporting Option in 2015 to respond to our customers’ request that they be allowed to choose which measure sets to report. That option also allowed hospitals to begin reporting eCQMs. This year, CMS is implementing a requirement for hospitals to report at least four eCQMs, making this the optimal time for the Pioneers in Quality program.

The key components of this new initiative include:

- Educational webinars focused on the eCQM journey
- Resource Portal
- Recognition categories for eCQM pioneers
- Pioneers in Quality Advisory panel
- A modified Joint Commission annual report, focusing on the components of the program and the evolution of eCQM measurement
- Outreach through The Joint Commission’s Speaker's Bureau
- Core Measure Solution Exchange® - a peer-to-peer solution exchange that will be modified to include eCQMs
- Strong focus on partnering with hospitals to provide the highest level of quality care for patients and their families

For more information, please visit the new Pioneers in Quality Portal at www.jointcommission.org/topics/pioneers_in_quality.aspx.

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The Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.