

The Joint Commission hospital survey window is open! Conduct a walkthrough of your unit/practice to ensure:

- Linen carts are covered and not stored next to a soiled linen cart
- Medications, needles, and syringes are secure
- Medication preparation areas are clean
- Reusable pill crushers are clean
- Opened multi-dose medications are initialed and marked with the date 28 days from opening or the bottle expiration date, whichever comes first
- Medications stored at the bedside are locked
- Needle boxes are not overfilled
- Staff are wearing ID badges (visible & above the waist)
- There is no clutter – remove stored equipment (e.g. beds, stretchers) from hallways and stairwells
- There is clear access to fire extinguishers, medical gas shut off valves, and fire doors
- Oxygen tanks are secure, segregated and with appropriate signage
- No items are stored under the sink
- Doors that should be closed are closed (soiled utility, etc.) and lock those that should be locked
- There are no staff beverages or food in patient care areas or patient refrigerators
- Code carts are accessible and checked daily (old logs are filed in the manager's office)
- Thermometers on refrigerators are functioning and temperatures are logged daily (where applicable)
- Emergency equipment is plugged into red outlets
- Open packages of EKG electrodes are folded closed and marked with date of expiration (30 days after opening)
- Staff follow hand hygiene protocols
- Furniture has no holes or cracks
- Items are stored at least 18 inches from sprinkler heads
- Hazardous waste bins are covered and stored appropriately
- There are no food/drinks in patient refrigerators that are expired or unlabeled
- Glucometer controls have expiration dates written on the bottles
- No Protected Health Information is accessible (including paper medical record documents)
- Patients at risk for falls or on precautions have been identified
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available and worn by staff
- Computer workstations are logged off or locked when not in use
- All supplies and equipment are off the floor
- No supplies are stored in cardboard shipping boxes
- Charts have admission assessment, H&P, care plans with measurable goals and timeframes, advance care directive (health care proxy)
- Plan of care and flow sheet have pain, skin, fall assessments/reassessments and interventions; documentation of patient education and understanding