

Listserv December 2012

Dear Primary ORYX Measurement System Contact:

The purpose of this listserv is to provide you with an update for the *Specifications Manual for Joint Commission National Quality Core Measures, Versions 2012B* (effective starting with July 1, 2012 discharges) and 2013A1 (effective starting with January 1, 2013 discharges specifications) for the Perinatal Care (PC) core measures.

Recently The Joint Commission became aware of an issue with PC-04: Health Care-Associated Bloodstream Infections In Newborns. Due to revisions made to the measure specifications in manual V2012B, some cases without a health care-associated bloodstream infection are inadvertently flowing into the numerator. Joint Commission staff has identified specifications changes that will resolve this issue:

1. Modifying the BSI initial patient population algorithm to allow cases with newborn septicemia or bacteremia and other infection DX codes to be checked at the measure level.
2. Modifying the measure algorithm to evaluate newborn septicemia or bacteremia codes or other infection codes at the denominator level.
3. Creating a new data element *Bloodstream Infection Present on Admission* derived from clinical data.

Because these are material changes to the structure of the measure and in order to allow adequate time to implement these changes, the following steps will be taken:

1. Hospitals will continue report their data to their PMS vendor.
2. Vendors will continue to transmit the data to The Joint Commission.
3. The Joint Commission will suspend use of the data for 3Q12, 4Q12, 1Q13 & 2Q13, so they will not appear on the vendor's quarterly data quality reports or in the hospital's ORYX performance report.

A separate communication will be sent to the hospitals notifying them of this change.

Specification changes will be included in manual V2013B to be published around February 1, 2013, effective for data collection with discharges on July 1, 2013.

In addition, The Joint Commission became aware of an issue impacting manual V2013A1 related to the PC-05: Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding algorithm. For the data element *Discharge Disposition* allowable value "4" (Acute Care Facility) was inadvertently made to flow through the algorithm for into the numerator instead of flowing to Category B as a denominator exclusion as it should have been. A corrected algorithm has been posted to manual V2013A1. Please make note of this allowable value change.