



APPROVED: Will Not Score Medication Reconciliation in 2009

Plans to Review, Refine NPSG 8 for 2010

Medication errors continue to be one of the most frequent causes of preventable harm in health care.

The Joint Commission is

committed to helping organizations prevent medication errors, as evidenced by National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 8 on medication reconciliation, which highlights a critical problem that poses significant risk to patients. However, since its introduction in 2005, many organizations have struggled to develop and implement effective and efficient processes to meet the intent of NPSG 8.

Given the difficulties that many organizations are having in meeting the complex requirements of NPSG 8, The Joint Commission will evaluate and refine these expectations for accredited organizations throughout 2009. While this evaluation takes place, modifications to scoring NPSG 8 have been approved. At its February 2009 meeting, The Joint Commission's Accreditation Committee approved the

following key decisions for **all**

accreditation programs, retroactive to **January 1, 2009**:

- Surveyors' findings on NPSG 8 will **not** contribute to an organization's accreditation decision.
- Surveyor findings on NPSG 8 will **not** generate Requirements for Improvement (RFIs), and will **not** appear on an organization's accreditation report.

National Patient Safety Goal 8

Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care.

Continued on page 3

Approved: Will Not Score Medication Reconciliation in 2009 (continued)

Continued from page 1

- Surveyors will continue to evaluate compliance with NPSG 8 to collect data for Joint Commission process improvement efforts.

Recognizing that medication reconciliation problems put patients at risk, The Joint Commission expects organizations to continue to address medication reconciliation across the continuum of care. During the on-site survey, Joint Commission surveyors will evaluate the organization's medication reconciliation processes, discuss opportunities for

improvement, and collect information on the progress organizations are making in meeting NPSG 8.

Meanwhile, The Joint Commission will evaluate and further refine NPSG 8 using data gathered from surveyors and in consultation with health care organizations, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other stakeholders. Through these discussions, The Joint Commission will create an improved NPSG 8 that both supports quality and safety of care and can be more readily implemented by the field in 2010. 