



# Staffing Effectiveness Standard Suspended for Hospitals and Long Term Care

**Effective immediately**, The Joint Commission suspended the survey of and requirement for compliance with staffing effectiveness Standard PI.04.01.01 for **hospitals** and Standard HR.1.30 for **long term care** organizations after determining the standard has a low impact on quality and safety of care and consumes substantial amounts of resources from accredited organizations. Please note that the following current requirements that also relate to effective staffing are **still in effect and being surveyed**:

- LD.03.06.01, EPs 3 and 4 (for long term care and hospitals)
- NR.02.03.01, EPs 4 and 7 (for hospitals only)

In addition, The Joint Commission developed two new elements of performance (EPs) for standard PI.02.01.01 that went through field review this summer (see July *Perspectives*, page 9). These EPs require both the consideration of adequate staffing in analyzing causes of undesirable performance (EP 12) and at least an annual review of staffing analysis data by the organization's leaders (EP 13). The Standards and Survey Procedures Committee will review the public comment on these proposed EPs at a July 31, 2009, meeting.

With these changes, The Joint Commission intends to offer accredited organizations useful requirements that they can use in the effective evaluation of staffing. While The Joint Commission seeks alternative approaches for evaluating effective staffing from health care organizations, professional groups, and state legislative initiatives, it is critical that organizations continue to focus on effective staffing as it relates to the quality and safety of patient care.

Future issues of *The Joint Commission Perspectives*<sup>®</sup> will provide updates on these requirements. 