

CJCP® Spotlight

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Q: What are the benefits of being a CJCP?

A: Becoming certified was a personal goal of mine. It has validated my understanding and knowledge of Joint Commission standards and processes. It has given me a sense of pride and accomplishment. Certification has many rewards, including advancing your career, providing a potential for financial incentives, and allowing your organization to demonstrate to its consumer base that it has the most knowledgeable and skilled professionals.

Q: You recently went through the recertification process. Do you have any insights to share with colleagues?

A: Commit to the recertification process over the entire three years. Keep your continuing education hours up to date over this time frame. Evaluate where you are with earning the required hours before the third year begins. This will allow you to recognize what you need to earn before the re-certification period opens. I found the online re-certification process very user friendly and had no trouble navigating the fields.

Q. How has the credential helped to distinguish you as a professional?

- A. Education and training are the usual requirements for any position. Certification credentials show that you have gone above what is required and enhanced yourself by making the additional effort to become certified. This increases the staff's confidence in you and shows them you are striving to be the best that can you be.

Q. Are any of your colleagues considering or preparing for CJCP certification?

- A. Two other colleagues in my organization achieved certification after I received mine. My vice president is a great believer in preparation and certification for individuals. She has been a significant role model for me as well as a mentor.

Q. What advice would you give to a new accreditation manager?

- A. Read the hospital accreditation manual from cover to cover. Pull in those folks within your organization who are experts in their area, and use their knowledge to assist you in determining your course of action and readiness for survey. Don't think that you have to know everything about everything; you don't. You can act as a facilitator to assist with their understanding of what is expected to meet the standards. Use the tools and resources available to you from The Joint Commission including Standards BoosterPaks, Leading Practice Library, and Core Measure Solutions Exchange. These are all free resources as part of your accreditation status. The educational modules from JCR are excellent for obtaining overviews of each chapter. Attend one of the live conferences to gain up-to-date information and a chance to meet other accreditation professionals.

Q. What is the number one challenge you come across in your role?

- A. The worry of not being able to keep up-to-date with all the changes and modifications to the standards and Conditions of Participation. Working in health care, especially in a hospital, is a fast-paced environment, and regulations/standards are trying to keep pace with progress! I utilize several resources regularly to keep up-to-date with all of this information (including [The Joint Commission Perspectives](#), Joint Commission Alerts and online webinars).

For more information on CJCP Certification, please visit www.jcrinc.com/cjcp-certification/.