



NEWS RELEASE

JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

Media contacts:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlene D. Hill, JCAHO, 630.792.5175, chill@jcaho.org

Carole Szpak, NAPHS, 202.393.6700, ext. 101, comm@naphs.org

Robert Glover, Ph.D., NASMHPD, 703.739.9333, bob.glover@nasmhpd.org

Lucille Schacht, Ph.D., NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc., 703.739.9333, ext. 125,

lucille.schacht@nri-inc.org

JCAHO TEAMS UP WITH NAPHS, NASMHPD TO IDENTIFY CORE MEASURE SET FOR IN-PATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

(Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. – April 22, 2004) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS), National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and the NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc., today announced an initiative to identify a set of standardized, core measures for hospital-based, in-patient psychiatric services.

“Stakeholder demands for performance information about health care provider organizations are rapidly escalating, especially in the purchaser and consumer communities,” says Dennis S. O’Leary, M.D., president, Joint Commission. “The initial creation of a standardized measure set for in-patient psychiatric services will go a long way towards meeting the need for objective, credible information and should also drive continuous improvement in the quality of these services.”

“Hospital-based, in-patient psychiatric care providers have been actively engaged in quality improvement measurement for many years,” says Mark Covall, executive director, NAPHS. “NAPHS believes this is the time to bring this wealth of information together with others to develop a consistent set of indicators that can help measure quality for consumers, providers, and purchasers.”

“This initiative is particularly significant today, when most of our state mental health authorities rely on private as well as public inpatient facilities,” says Dr. Robert Glover, Executive

-more-

Director, NASMHPD. “It is vital, therefore, that state mental health directors and psychiatric hospital superintendents who are responsible for allocating resources, enhancing quality improvement, and monitoring system capacity have access to data that will bridge the gaps between the private and public providers systems of care.”

“The Research Institute currently compiles separate performance measures each month from 240 public psychiatric hospitals,” says Noel Mazade, Ph.D., Executive Director, NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc. “The development of JCAHO’s core measure set will provide hospitals with a robust set of indicators that will improve hospital management practices even further.”

A group of representatives from 24 stakeholder organizations met in March to discuss the process for identifying measures. In addition, the stakeholders will help to identify the members of an expert advisory panel which will actually develop and recommend the initial measure set to the Joint Commission and its project partners. The panel’s work is expected to take 16 to 24 months. The finalized measures will then be submitted to the National Quality Forum for consideration and endorsement, and then be implemented as part of the Joint Commission’s ORYX[®] initiative that is integrating performance measurement into the Joint Commission’s accreditation process.

A listing of the organizations that participated in the stakeholder discussion follows on page 3.

Core measures are part of the Joint Commission’s new patient-centered accreditation process which utilizes performance data on a continuing basis to help health care organizations identify opportunities to improve clinical care. The new in-patient care measures will significantly enhance this capability in psychiatric hospitals and in general hospitals that provide psychiatric services.

###

Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits nearly 16,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 8,000 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

F:\DOC\Media\NEWSREL\2004\JCAHO news releases\core measures for psych services 2.04.doc

-more-

- American Hospital Association
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Managed Behavioral Healthcare Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association
- American Psychological Association
- Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
- Brigham Young University, College of Social Sciences
- Center for Clinical Informatics
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- JCAHO
- NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc.
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- National Mental Health Association
- Pacificare Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- The National Quality Forum
- Tufts-New England Medical Center, The Health Institute
- University of Missouri
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Counseling Psychology