

# New Requirement for Collection of Information on Language and Communication Needs

The Joint Commission has approved new requirements regarding the collection of information on language and communication needs. Collection of such information is expected to assist organizational efforts to reduce potential risks to quality and safety when language or communication differences exist. These requirements are

effective **January 1, 2006**, for **ambulatory care, behavioral health care, critical access hospital, home care, hospital, and long term care** and are indicated with underline.

The revised standards will be published in the appropriate 2006 manuals and updates available in the fall of 2005. ▲



## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF REVISED ELEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE

### New Requirement for IM.6.20

**APPLICABLE TO AMBULATORY CARE, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE, CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL, HOME CARE, HOSPITAL, AND LONG TERM CARE**

#### Information Management

Effective January 1, 2006

#### Standard IM.6.20

Records contain [client/patient/resident]-specific information, as appropriate to the care, treatment, and services provided.

#### Elements of Performance for IM.6.20

- Ⓜ C 2. **[Ambulatory Care, Behavioral Health Care, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, Long Term Care]** (Medical records) contain, as applicable, the following demographic information:
- **[Ambulatory Care]** Patient's name, gender, address, phone number, date of birth, height and weight, and the name and phone number of any legally authorized representative
  - **[Behavioral Health Care]** Client's name, address, date of birth, sex, race or ethnic origin, next of kin, education, marital status, employment, and the name and phone number of any legally authorized representative
  - **[Critical Access Hospital and Hospital]** Patient's name, sex, address, date of birth, and authorized representative

- **[Long Term Care]** Resident's name, address, date of birth, religion, marital status, social security number, gender, and the name of any legally authorized representative
  - **[Ambulatory Care, Critical Access Hospital, and Hospital]** Legal status of patients receiving behavioral health care services
  - **[Behavioral Health Care]** Legal status of clients
  - **[Long Term Care]** Resident's legal status
  - **[Ambulatory Care, Behavioral Health Care, Critical Access Hospital, Hospital, and Long Term Care]** The [client/patient/resident]'s language and communication needs.
- Ⓜ C 6. **[Home Care]** The following clinical information is included in the patient record:
- Specific notes on the care, treatment, and services
  - Assessments relevant to the care, treatment, and services
  - Authenticated, legible, and complete physician's orders, as required by law or regulation
  - Patient's relevant medical history
  - Information required by the organization's policy or law or regulation
  - The patient's language and communication needs