

Joint Commission Newborn ID Update

National Patient Safety Goal NPSG.01.01.01:
Use at least two ways to identify patients.



What has the Joint Commission added?

The new element of performance (EP) is part of National Patient Safety Goal NPSG.01.01.01.

Element of Performance 3:

- Use distinct methods of identification for newborn patients.

Goal:

The EP is designed to improve the naming convention of newborns (used for identification) after delivery to prevent medical errors—such as wrong tests, wrong procedures, or administering the wrong breast milk to an infant—due to conventional, non-distinct naming methods.

Examples of what the Joint Commission will be looking for:

- Distinct identification systems and processes that could include using the mother's first and last names and the newborn's gender (for example: "Smith, Judy Girl" or "Smith, Judy Girl A" and "Smith, Judy Girl B" for multiples)
- Standardized practices for identification banding (for example, two (2) body-site identification and barcoding)

- Established communication tools among staff (for example, visually alerting staff with signage noting newborns with similar names)

Who does this affect?

Any hospital or critical access hospital with a nursery, Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), pediatrics or labor and delivery departments.

Key Dates

This EP will be effective January 1, 2019.

How can we help?

- Wristbands standardized across the health system and to provide two (2) body-site identifications
- Static clings for bassinets to alert staff of newborns with similar names
- Patient Communication Boards to help staff in identifying the location of newborns

Taylor Healthcare Can Help

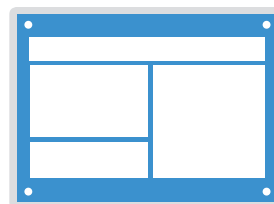
To meet the Joint Commission's new element of performance hospitals should begin to review their current process of identifying newborns. Hospitals should ensure the identification of newborns is the same across the health system. Also, hospitals can utilize signage in and around the nursery reminding doctors and nurses to review baby's names and double check that the wristbands match the chart. With decades of experience with patient identification and as a trusted partner, Taylor Healthcare can help:



Staff education materials



Static cling or poster



Communication boards



Wide format print



Table toppers and pop ups educate staff



Brochures

About Taylor Healthcare

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