

# **References to Spirituality, Religion, Beliefs, and Cultural Diversity in the Joint Commission's Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (July 1, 2023 E-dition)**

John Ehman (john.ehman@outlook.com), 5/18/23

## **RL.01.01.01** (The hospital respects, protects, and promotes patient rights.)

Introduction: ...Rights such as treating the patient in a dignified and respectful manner, providing effective communication, and respecting the patient's **CULTURAL** and personal values are covered in this standard. A hospital puts its respect for the patient's rights into action by showing its support of these rights through the ways that staff and caregivers interact with the patient and involve him or her in care, treatment, and services.

Element of Performance #6: The hospital respects the patient's **CULTURAL** and personal values, **BELIEFS**, and preferences.

Element of Performance #9: The hospital accommodates the patient's right to **RELIGIOUS** and other **SPIRITUAL** services.

Element of Performance #29: The hospital prohibits discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, **RELIGION**, **CULTURE**, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.

## **PC.01.02.11** (The hospital assesses the needs of patients who receive psychosocial services to treat alcoholism or other substance use disorders.)

Element of Performance #5: Based on the patient's age and needs, the assessment for patients receiving psychosocial services for the treatment of alcoholism or other substance use disorders includes the following: ...The patient's **RELIGION** and **SPIRITUAL BELIEFS**, values, and preferences.

## **PC.01.02.13** (The hospital assesses the needs of patients who receive treatment for emotional and behavioral disorders.)

Element of Performance #3: Based on the patient's age and needs, the assessment for patients who receive treatment for emotional and behavioral disorders includes the following: ...The patient's **RELIGION** and **SPIRITUAL BELIEFS**, values, and preferences.

## **PC.02.03.01** (The hospital provides patient education and training based on each patient's needs and abilities.)

Element of Performance #1: The hospital performs a learning needs assessment for each patient, which includes the patient's **CULTURAL** and **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**, emotional barriers, desire and motivation to learn, physical or cognitive limitations, and barriers to communication.

## **TS.01.01.01** (The hospital, with the medical staff's participation, develops and implements written policies and procedures for donating and procuring organs and tissues.)

Element of Performance #5: Staff education includes training in the use of discretion and sensitivity to the circumstances, **BELIEFS**, and desires of the families of potential organ, tissue, or eye donors.

## **HR.01.04.01** (The hospital provides orientation to staff.)

Element of Performance #5: The hospital orients staff on the following: ... - Sensitivity to **CULTURAL DIVERSITY** based on their job duties and responsibilities.

## **MS.06.01.03** (The hospital collects information regarding each practitioner's current license status, training, experience, competence, and ability to perform the requested privilege.)

Introduction: Professionalism: Practitioners are expected to demonstrate behaviors that reflect a commitment to continuous professional development, ethical practice, an understanding and sensitivity to **DIVERSITY**<sup>†</sup> and a responsible attitude toward their patients, their profession, and society.

<sup>†</sup> The Joint Commission considers **DIVERSITY** to include race, culture, gender, **RELIGION**, ethnic background, sexual preference, language, mental capacity, and physical disability. [—note added to the manual in 2008]

## **LD.03.01.01 - LD.03.06.01** (re: Leadership standards)

Introduction to Hospital Culture and System Performance Expectations, Standards LD.03.01.01 through LD.03.06.01: A hospital's culture reflects the **BELIEFS**, attitudes, and priorities of its members....

**Glossary** entry for "hospice" – Definition: ...Hospice programs specialize in palliative management of pain and other physical symptoms, meeting the psychosocial and **SPIRITUAL** needs of the patient and the patient's family or other primary caregiver through utilization of volunteers and provision of bereavement care to survivors....

**Glossary** entry for "interdisciplinary" – Definition: An approach to care that involves two or more disciplines or professions (for example, social services, specialist consultation, nursing, medicine, therapies, **SPIRITUAL** support) collaborating to plan, treat, or provide care or services to a mother and/or newborn, patient, resident, or individual served and/or that person's family.

**NOTE:** Two explicit references to religious/spiritual needs were dropped from the requirements in the February 19, 2023 E-dition: PC.02.02.03 Element of Performance #9 (which previously stated, "When possible, the hospital accommodates the patient's CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, or ethnic food and nutrition preferences, unless contraindicated), and PC.02.02.13 Element of Performance #1 (which previously stated, "To the extent possible, the hospital provides care and services that accommodate the patient's and his or her family's comfort, dignity, psychosocial, emotional, and SPIRITUAL end-of-life needs").