

2025-2026 Educational Webinar Series

Joint Commission 2026 Physical Environment Standards

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About the Moderator



Binseng Wang, ScD, CCE

- Binseng Wang is the principal consultant with BSI, a health technology consulting company.
- Previously, he worked for Sodexo HTM, Greenwood Marketing LLC, Sundance Enterprises, Aramark Healthcare Technologies, and MEDIQ/PRN. He also worked as a Visiting Scientist at NIH, taught at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Univ. of Campinas, Brazil.
- He is a fellow of ACCE and AIMBE. He received the 2010 AAMI CE Achievement Award, the 2015 ACCE Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2019 AAMI-TRIMEDX Iconoclast award. He was inducted into the ACCE Clinical Engineering Hall of Fame in 2017 and granted the title of Honorary Life Member by IFMBE in 2022. He was chair of ACCE International Committee 2018-2023. He received the ICON-Lifetime Achievement award from TechNation in 2025.
- He earned a Doctor of Science (ScD) degree from MIT and is a Certified Clinical Engineer (CCE).

Logistics

- ❖ All attendees have their microphones muted during the presentation.
- ❖ Questions to the panelists must be submitted via the “Q&A” feature in Zoom at any time. They will be addressed at the Q&A portion.
- ❖ If there is any urgent issue, please use the “chat” feature to communicate with the host/moderator.
- ❖ Please remember to complete the webinar evaluation after attending. A link will be provided at the end.

About the Presenter



Michael S. Bernstein, MSE, MBA, PE, CHFM, CCE



Michael Bernstein is a part-time Life Safety Code Surveyor at Joint Commission. In this role, he surveys under the standards in the Comprehensive Accreditation Manuals for Ambulatory Care, Behavioral Care, Critical Access Hospitals, Home Care, and Hospitals.

Prior to joining Joint Commission, Mr. Bernstein served in various roles including Chief, Biomedical Engineering, Veterans Administrative Hospitals (Philadelphia, Oklahoma City, Washington DC); Director, Biomedical Engineering, Clarian Health (now IU Health) Indianapolis; and Director of Plant Operations and Engineering, Genesis Healthcare System, Zanesville, OH. Earlier, he held positions of Facilities Engineer, Director of Clinical Engineering, and Hospital Safety Director.

Mr. Bernstein maintains certification as a Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager, is certified in Clinical Engineering (retired) , and is a licensed Professional Engineer. He was an Adjunct Professor at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI). He is also a members of the American Society for Health Care Engineering – Institute for Electrica and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

Mr. Bernstein has a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Science in Engineering degree from Purdue University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Indianapolis. He is also a Certified Yellow Belt at Joint Commission.

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Session Description

Beginning January 1, 2026, Joint Commission revised their standards to better align with the CMS Conditions of Participation (CoP) for Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals. As far as Medical Equipment Management is concerned, the Environment of Care (EC) standards have been changed to the Physical Environment (PE) standards. The previous EC standards that did not align with the CMS CoP were changed to the National Performance Goals (NPG) standards.

Joint Commission took this opportunity to evaluate all of the previous standards and eliminated/moved/combined those that were redundant or did not reflect current practices.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, the participant will be able to:

1. Understand the conversion between old EC and new PE/NPG standards,
2. Understand the survey process as related to Medical Equipment Management.
3. Understand the most frequently scored ME EP's and their new PE/NPG location
4. Understand how to access Joint Commission resources for further guidance.

JC Process to Convert to the PE/NPG Standards

- Reviewed all EC medical equipment standards and/or EPs (EC.02.04.01, EC.02.04.03, EC.01.01.01, and EC 04.01.01)
- All were considered and either moved or consolidated to appropriate new Standard/EP or eliminated obsolete ones to reduce the burden on organizations.

CMS CoP Language is Referenced to PE Standards

Most commonly used PE Standard for Medical Equipment:

PE 04.01.01 EP 2:

- The Hospital maintains essential equipment in safe operating condition.
- CoP: 482.41(d)(2)

EC Standard/EPs converted to PE 04.01.01 EP 2

- EC 02.04.01 EP 2: Written Equipment Inventory
- EC 02.04.01 EP 3: High Risk Equipment Inventory
- EC 02.04.01 EP 4: Identification of Medical Equip. ITM
- EC 02.04.01 EP 5: Identification of ITM for equipment not eligible for AEM
- EC 02.04.01 EP 6: Qualified individual to determine AEM inclusion (deemed)

PE 04.01.01 EP 2 conversion (cont.)

- EC 02.04.01 EP 7: Identification of Equipment included in the AEM program.
- EC 02.04.01 EP 9: Medical Equipment failure procedures
- EC 02.04.01 EP 11: Procedures managing SMDA 1990 type events.
- EC 02.04.03 EP 1: Equipment incoming inspection and post-repair safety checks.

PE 04.01.01 EP 2 conversion (cont.)

- EC 02.04.03 EP 2: Maintenance of high risk equipment
- EC 02.04.03 EP 3: Maintenance of non-high risk equipment
- EC 02.04.03 EP 4: Maintenance of Sterilizers
- EC 02.04.03 EP 5: Hemodialysis water testing
- EC 02.04.03 EP 26: Maintenance of Anesthesia Equipment

CMS CoP Language is Referenced to PE Standards

PE Standard for Medical Equipment

PE 04.01.01 EP 1:

- The Hospital meets the applicable provisions and proceeds in accordance with the Healthcare Facilities Code (NFPA 99 – 2012 and TIAs 12-2, 12-3, 12-4, 12-5, and 12-6)
- CoPs: 482.15, 482.41, 482,42

EC Standard/EPs converted to PE 04.01.01 EP 1

- EC 02.04.03 EP 8: Equipment used in oxygen enriched environment
- EC 02.04.01 EP 10: Hyperbaric Oxygen treatment location construction
- EC 01.01.01 EP 12 : Compliance with NFPA 99 (2012 edition)
- EC 02.04.03 EP 27: Compliance of Equipment in the patient care vicinity.

CMS CoP Language is Referenced to PE Standards

PE Standard for Medical Equipment

PE 05.01.01 EPs 1-4:

- Related to Imaging that is closely linked to the old EC standards
- CoP: 482.53

PE 05.01.01 EP 1

- Annual physicist's inspection, testing, and calibration of Nuclear Medicine Equipment
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EPs 16 and 23

PE 05.01.01 EP 2

- Annual physicist's inspection, testing, and calibration of PET Equipment
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 24

PE 05.01.01 EP 3

- CT, MRI, NM, PET display image quality evaluation
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 25

PE 05.01.01 EP 4

- Annual physicist's evaluation of fluoroscopy
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 34

National Performance Goals (NPG) related to Medical Equipment

- Standards/EPs that are not related to CMS CoPs but are requirements during survey.
- Closely linked to old EC Standards

NPG 13.03.01 EP 4

- Annual Physicist's evaluation of CT dosage (CTDI etc.)
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 20

NPG 13.03.01 EP 5

- Annual Physicist's evaluation of CT performance
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 21

NPG 13.03.01 EP 6

- Annual Physicist's evaluation of MRI performance
- Replaces EC 02.04.03 EP 22

NPG 11.01.01 EP 1

- Processes for monitoring, reporting, and investigating medical equipment problems, failures, and user errors.
- Was part of the Environment of Care Committee Meeting
- Replaces EC 04.01.01 EP 1

Deleted EPs

These items could still be performed if the activity still contributes to the organization's safety and quality goals:

- EC 04.01.01 EP 8: Medical Equipment Management Plan
- EC 02.04.03 EP 18: CT, MRI, MN Quality Control

Medical Equipment Tracer

Could possibly be reviewed during Document Review or at any time during survey

- Review of Inventory
- Risk Analysis Process for the determination of high risk/life support equipment and/or AEM inclusion program
- Equipment Histories of selected equipment
- Sterilizer Maintenance Records
- Anesthesia Equipment Records

Medical Equipment Tracer (cont.)

- Physicist Certifications of CT, MRI, PET, Nuc. Med., Fluoroscopy Equipment (including displays) and Equipment Maintenance Histories
- Other items that may occur during survey (can be requested by other surveyors on site)

Top 10 Medical Equipment Non-Compliances Scored in 2025 with the 2026 Standard Conversion

Number 10

EC 02.04.03 EP 18 – The Quality of Diagnostic Images

- Missing QC Checks of Imaging Equipment

New Standard: Removed

Number 9

EC 02.04.01 EP 4 – Equipment Maintenance Testing Schedule

- No listed preventive maintenance testing schedule for medical equipment (patient scales and lifts)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 8

EC 02.04.01 EP 10 – Quality Control of CT/PET/NM

- Missing daily, weekly, monthly QC checks

New Standard: Removed

Number 7

EC 02.04.03 EP 1 – Medical Equipment initial testing (incoming inspection) and post repair inspections

- Equipment found during survey in use without documented incoming inspection (Biofeedback unit, CPAP machine)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 6

EC 02.04.01 EP 2 – Medical Equipment Inventories

- All Equipment was not listed in the inventory if the organization is deemed. (sphygmomanometers, patient scales, etc.)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 5

EC 02.04.03 EP 4 – Maintenance of Sterilizers

- Vendors not meeting the testing intervals.
- Improper user maintenance (drain screen cleaning)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 4

EC 02.04.03 EP 2 – High-risk Medical Equipment Maintenance

- Reported PM Completion Rates less than 100%
- Improper user maintenance
- PM Intervals “out of date” (expired stickers)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 3

EC 02.05.01 EP 24 – Using Extension Cords instead of Fixed Wiring

- Mounting Power Strips on the wall
- RPTs that are part of an assembly but other items were also connected (OR table)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 1

Number 2

EC 02.04.03 EP 3 – Maintenance of Low-Risk Medical Equipment

- PM Intervals “out of date” (expired stickers)
- Improper user maintenance (hydrocollators)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 2

Number 1

EC 02.05.01 EP 23 – RPT Usage

- RPTs that are not part of an assembly
- RPTs that are part of an assembly but are not permanently mounted
- Improper items plugged into RPTs (heating devices)

New Standard: PE 04.01.01 EP 1

Joint Commission LSCS Leaders



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Joint Commission A360 Resources

Critical Access Hospital and Hospital Requirements
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Questions After the Presentation

- If you have any questions associated with new standards, please use the JC website or scan the QR code to the right
 - Survey Link:
https://jointcommission.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eVsQMi14AqWnv5l
 - This will navigate you to a Qualtrics survey to submit your questions to SIG/SSM for review
- FAQs will be generated based upon the questions submitted by both the Field and Accredited Organizations



Questions



Any question?

**Please type your questions to the Zoom
Q&A window**

Thank You

Please complete the online evaluation form at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026-session6>

