

Safety and Quality: A Former Joint Commission Surveyor's Perspective

Marianne Sevcik

Ohio University / Delray Beach, FL USA

Abstract

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) published data in 2001(1) that forced the health care industry to recognize the need for improved and sustainable safety/quality outcomes. Today, IOM suggests that over 98,000 die annually due to avoidable error in our health care systems, suggesting that the problem lies more within the systems not in errors made by health care professionals (2). Six measures put forth by IOM include the safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, equitable delivery of health care (2). Further, Sentinel Event data collected annually by The Joint Commission (TJC) reveals that preventable safety events such as wrong site/wrong procedure, suicide and falls still occur in hospital settings (3). While there has been speculation that accredited organizations do not have improved outcomes, this is not supported by data. TJC provides accreditation for 90% of accredited hospitals (USA) and is broadening global accreditations through Joint Commission International (JCI) in 100 countries. Founded by physician's in 1951, TJC began with the idea that accountability and standardization lead to improved outcomes for patient safety and quality. In its 70 year history TJC has grown into a global effort to improve safety/quality in the health care industry, with the first International Accreditation awarded in 2000. As a former surveyor for TJC, I will share accreditation basics, lessons learned from hundreds of surveys conducted and best practices in quality/safety seen across the USA.

Received: January 11, 2022; **Accepted:** February 07, 2022; **Published:** February 20, 2022

Biography

Marianne is an energetic, engaging healthcare leader who is passionate about promoting patient safety and quality improvement. With over 30 years as a health care leader, Marianne worked for The Joint Commission (TJC) as a Surveyor in the Hospital Accreditation Program, USA. In this role, she also

worked collaboratively to facilitate decrease of the USA maternal mortality rate as a subject matter expert through authoring policy and conducting process improvements to standardize survey activity. Marianne grew up all over the world and currently resides in Florida with her husband, Dan.