The Joint Commission Standards for Diagnostic Imaging

Is your Radiology Department Ready?

In a communication to their customers on May 15, 2014 The Joint Commission announced delay of their impending requirements for Diagnostic Imaging until July 2015. It is expected that the majority of the 2014 proposed requirements will be implemented as currently written, but they are collecting additional information about several critical areas of radiation safety before they finalize a single set of standards.

This document will cover some of the key elements TJC included in the 2014 proposed requirements.

Bayer offers a solution to support compliance with the standards which the Joint Commission indicates address overall patient safety, oversight of imaging services, staff competency, radiation safety procedures equipment and quality control.

The standards are for accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals, and ambulatory health care organizations that provide diagnostic imaging services, including ambulatory organizations that have achieved Advanced Diagnostic Imaging certification.

Establishing Protocols

The New Standard: Computed tomography (CT) services: The hospital or ambulatory care center establishes imaging protocols based on current standards of practice, which address key criteria including clinical indication, contrast administration, age, patient size and body habitus, and the expected radiation dose range. (reference: PC.01.03.01)

The Bayer Solution: Bayer offers tools to help manage radiation and contrast protocols and address key criteria.

Radimetrics™ Enterprise Platform allows you to include multiple radiation Dose Reference Levels (DRLs) with imaging protocols.

- DRL can be filtered to specific patient groups based on age as well as gender, height/weight, and diameter
- DRL can be based on different radiation dose values, including DLP, SSDE, CTDiVol, ICRP 60 and ICRP 103
- DRL can be set for a value or based on the percentile of current enterprise data

Certegra® @ Point of Care featuring Certegra® P3T® 2.0 software functionality calculates contrast injection protocols individualized to each patient. Certegra® P3T® Protocols use patient weight and contrast concentration to design a custom injection protocol including:

- Volume of contrast
- Flow rate
- Ratio of iodine and saline
- Scan delay

Certegra® P3T® Protocols can be designed to reflect radiologist preference for dosing by organ, specific disease states, and personalized to each patient.
Dose Documentation

The New Standard: For hospitals or ambulatory care centers that provide diagnostics CT services: The interpretive report of the diagnostic CT study includes CTDIvol or DLP radiation dose. The dose is either recorded in the patient's interpretive report or included in the protocol page. (reference: PC.01.02.15)

The Bayer Solution: Radimetrics™ Enterprise Platform provides automated dose capture integrated with multiple radiology reporting systems currently available on the market.

Radimetrics™ Enterprise Platform allows you to configure one or more of the following dose values in the radiologist report:
- DLP
- CTDIvol
- SSDE

Comparison With External Benchmarks

The New Standard: For hospitals or ambulatory care centers that provide diagnostic computed tomography (CT) services: The hospital/care center compiles and analyzes data on patient CT radiation doses and compares it with external benchmarks when available. (reference: PI.02.01.01)

The Bayer Solution: Radimetrics™ Enterprise Platform allows users to compile, compare and analyze data on patient CT radiation doses:
- Set multiple, customized dose reference levels
- Compare dose with external benchmarks like QuiRCC, NCRP, ACR

Phase two of The Joint Commission's standards changes are slated for implementation in 2015. The changes will focus on fluoroscopy, minimum qualifications for clinicians who perform imaging exams and cone beam CT.