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# FACT SHEET

## JCAHO\* Pain Standards

(\*Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations)

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- New pain standards approved by the JCAHO Board of Commissioners in May 1999.
- Published in the 2000-2001 manuals for ambulatory care, behavioral health, health care networks, home care, hospitals, long term care, and long-term care pharmacies.
- Organizations will be scored for compliance beginning January 1, 2001.
- The new standards will require health care organizations to:
  1. Recognize the right of patients to appropriate assessment and management of their pain;
  2. Identify patients with pain in an initial screening assessment;
  3. Perform a more comprehensive pain assessment when pain is identified;
  4. Record the results of the assessment in a way that facilitates regular reassessment and follow-up;
  5. Educate relevant providers in pain assessment and management;
  6. Determine and assure staff competency in pain assessment and management;
  7. Address pain assessment and management in the orientation of all new staff;
  8. Establish policies and procedures that support appropriate prescription or ordering of effective pain medications;
  9. Ensure that pain does not interfere with participation in rehabilitation;
  10. Educate patients and their families about the importance of effective pain management;
  11. Address patient needs for symptom management in the discharge planning process;
  12. Collect data to monitor the appropriateness and effectiveness of pain management.

For more information: [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org) , JCAHO standards questions: 1-630-792-5900