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If you have questions regarding the information in this alert or would like to receive further information regarding our Health Care Department, please contact:

**Jennifer L. Benedict**  
313.465.7326  
jbenedict@honigman.com

**Ann T. Hollenbeck**  
313.465.7680  
ahollenbeck@honigman.com

**Matthew R. Keuten**  
313.465.7510  
mkeuten@honigman.com

**Kenneth R. Marcus**  
313.465.7470  
kmarcus@honigman.com

**Erica D. Partee**  
313.465.7528  
epartee@honigman.com

**Linda S. Ross**  
313.465.7526  
lross@honigman.com

**Angela Epolito Sprecher**  
313.465.7540  
asprecher@honigman.com

## Joint Commission MS 01.01.01— Is Your Hospital Ready?

The revised Joint Commission hospital standard addressing medical staff self-governance and accountability for quality and safety of patient care, Medical Staff Standard 01.01.01 (MS 01.01.01), takes effect on **March 31, 2011**. MS 01.01.01 applies to entities accredited or seeking accreditation by the Joint Commission's Hospital Accreditation Program and Critical Access Hospital Accreditation Program. Hospitals that have not yet started the process of reviewing and revising their medical staff bylaws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures to bring them into compliance with MS 01.01.01, should do so immediately.

MS.01.01.01 replaces Medical Staff Standard 1.2 (MS 1.20) and sets forth standards for medical staff bylaws and cooperation between a hospital's medical staff, medical executive committee and governing body. Specifically, it dictates the framework and process for creating and adopting medical staff bylaws and is designed to support positive communicative and collaborative relationships between the hospital's medical staff and governing body to enhance quality and safety of care.

The revised standard requires communication between the medical staff and the medical executive committee when either proposes to adopt or amend a rule, regulation or policy. It also specifies that the medical staff should have authority to propose changes to the bylaws and policies and procedures directly to the governing body for approval. The medical staff is also required to implement a process for managing conflict between the medical staff and the medical executive committee.

The elements of performance for the revised standard now require that the following, among other elements, be included in the medical staff bylaws:

- a description of who is eligible to vote
- a list of medical staff officers
- the process for adopting and amending the bylaws
- the process for adopting and amending the medical staff rules and regulations and policies
- duties and privileges for each category of medical staff
- a requirement for completing and documenting medical histories and physician examinations

The basic steps to meet these and other elements of performance regarding processes and procedures must appear in the medical staff bylaws. The details associated with carrying out these elements of performance, however, may appear elsewhere in the medical staff rules and regulations or policies.

For questions regarding MS 01.01.01 or for assistance with bringing medical staff bylaws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures into compliance with MS 01.01.01, please contact any member of the Honigman Health Care Department.

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