

## A look at The Joint Commission

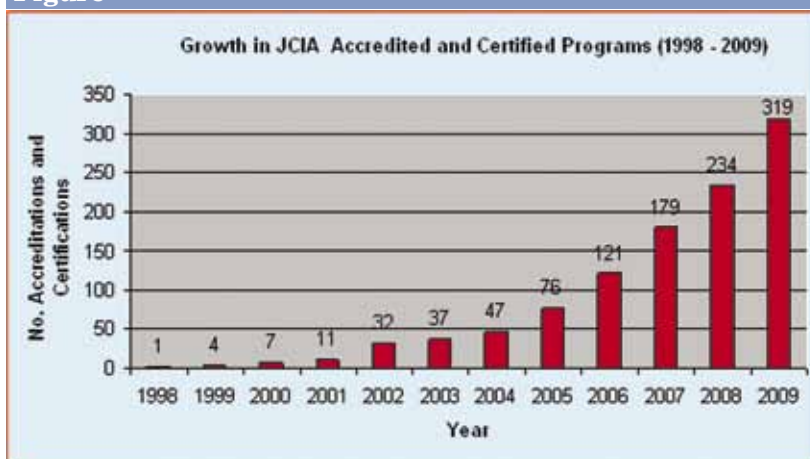
# Joint Commission International celebrates a milestone

In December 2009, Joint Commission International (JCI) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first health care organization to be awarded accreditation under its globally developed international standards for hospitals. JCI is the international arm of The Joint Commission.

Established to respond to a growing demand around the world for standards-based evaluation of quality in health care, today JCI accredits or certifies more than 300 health care organizations and clinical care programs in 39 countries. (See Figure, this page.) JCI offers accreditation programs for hospitals, clinical laboratories, continuum of care (non-acute care settings such as home care), medical transport, ambulatory care, and primary care. JCI also offers a certification program for disease- or condition-specific clinical care programs. JCI's accreditation standards are the first, and only, international sets of standards that apply to health care organizations worldwide while accommodating cultural differences.

In December 1999, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, a private, not-for-profit, non-governmental facility in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was the first hospital accredited by JCI under the international stan-

Figure



dards. The hospital has also since achieved JCI Disease- or Condition-Specific Care Certification for its stroke program.

“Quality and safety challenges know no borders, and health care organizations around the world want to create environments that focus on quality, safety, and continuous improvement,” says Karen H. Timmons, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of JCI. “Accreditation meets this demand by stimulating continuous, systematic improvements in a hospital’s performance, and the outcomes of patient care. Health care organizations that have achieved JCI accreditation have made a public commitment to quality and patient safety.”

“Health care is a basic human right,” says Claudio Luiz Lottenberg, MD, CEO, and president of the board of trustees for Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein. “And JCI is the barometer for quality and safety as we meet patient needs.”

JCI, which is accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care, extends The Joint Commission’s mission worldwide. In addition to accreditation, JCI has extended its efforts to promote safe, quality care over the years with the following:

- The International Essentials for Quality and Patient Safety. This program is for hospitals starting the quality journey or facing the challenges of providing high-quality, safe

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patient care, despite limited equipment or financial and human resources. The Essentials program helps organizations begin the process of designing and implementing a risk reduction program that will lead to improved patient safety.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Patient Safety Solutions. The WHO redesignated The Joint Commission and JCI

as the world's first WHO Collaborating Centre for Patient Safety Solutions, dedicated solely to patient safety. The Centre focuses worldwide attention on patient safety and best practices that can reduce safety risks to patients. The Collaborating Centre coordinates efforts to spread these solutions as broadly as possible, internationally, through its work with ministries of

health, patient safety experts, national agencies on patient safety, health care professional associations, and consumer organizations. In 2007, the Collaborating Centre launched nine solutions that are applicable to a wide variety of countries and health care settings.

For more information about Joint Commission International, visit <http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org>.