



SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

SUBJECT: New Decision Rule for ORYX® Performance Measure Reporting Requirements

Dear Colleague,

Effective January 1, 2024, The Joint Commission is implementing a new decision rule for **critical access hospitals** and **hospitals** to reinforce the requirement to participate in the ORYX® performance measurement initiative. The ORYX initiative is an integral part of Joint Commission accreditation. Compliance with the initiative supports an organization's continuous quality improvement efforts by monitoring key performance areas.

Annual ORYX performance measure reporting is required by Accreditation Participation Requirement (APR) Standard APR.04.01.01, Element of Performance (EP) 24. With the new decision rule, organizations may receive a Denial of Accreditation (DA) if they fail to meet ORYX performance measure reporting requirements for two consecutive years.

***DA07** The hospital has failed to meet ORYX performance measurement requirements for two consecutive years in the absence of an approved Extenuating Circumstance from The Joint Commission.*

Beginning with calendar year (CY) 2024 ORYX performance measurement data, if an accredited organization does not submit performance measures for a calendar year, it will receive a notification that it either needs an approved Extenuating Circumstance Request (ECR) for the year or to submit performance measures. If the organization still has not submitted performance measures at the close of a second calendar year, it may receive a Denial of Accreditation, regardless of where the organization is in its accreditation cycle. Organizations experiencing emergency or disaster incidents, changes to their electronic health record systems, or other circumstances that create a significant burden for quality reporting may request an exemption for the ORYX reporting requirements by completing and returning The Joint Commission [ECR form](#) available within the [ORYX FAQs](#).

Additional information on the Joint Commission's ECR process and submission deadlines are available in the [ORYX FAQs](#) repository. The Joint Commission's ECR process differs from the US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) exemption request process, so it is important to review the ORYX FAQs prior to established deadlines.

The decision rule will be published in the fall 2023 E-dition update to the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Critical Access Hospitals (CAMCAH)* and the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (CAMH)*. For those customers who purchase them, the 2024 hard-copy CAMCAH and CAMH will include the new decision rule.

For more information and a detailed list of all requirements and measures, visit The Joint Commission's [ORYX Performance Measurement Reporting](#) page. The Joint Commission will post additional 2024 ORYX reporting requirements in a future issue of *Perspectives*. Questions regarding the new decision rule may be directed via email to HCOORYX@jointcommission.org.

Thank you.