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## OSHA and JCAHO Form Partnership

**Gina Pugliese, RN, MS**  
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OSHA and the JCAHO announced a 3-year partnership to help organizations meet accreditation expectations that promote health and safety for workers. The goals of this partnership are to minimize duplication in compliance activities between the two organizations and to foster improvement in the management of safety and health issues in healthcare organizations.

Cross education and training of JCAHO and OSHA staff already are underway, and 60 JCAHO staff recent-

ly participated in a 3-day session to learn how to recognize potential compliance issues related to employee safety and health in healthcare organizations. Plans also are being made for a series of collaborative publications and educational programs.

JCAHO's new *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook*, released in August, details workplace safety and health compliance requirements for healthcare workers and illustrates how compliance with JCAHO standards also satisfies OSHA requirements. JCAHO and OSHA staffs developed the workplace safety and

health examples in the manual.

Joseph A. Dear, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, said, "This is a logical alliance . . . and issues such as infection control, life safety, hazardous materials handling, and performance improvements are our everyday goals. By working together, we can reach these goals more efficiently."

FROM: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. OSHA and Joint Commission collaborate to promote health and safety for health care workers. Chicago, IL: JCAHO Press Release; August 5, 1996.