



## New Hospital Standard FAQ: Discharge Summary

Joint Commission International (JCI) recognizes the importance of consistent interpretation of accreditation standards. A table of Frequently Asked Questions is also published on the Joint Commission International website:

[https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/-/media/jci/jci-documents/contact-us/submit-a-jci-standards-interpretation-question/jci-hospitalstandards\\_7thedition\\_faq\\_120820.pdf](https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/-/media/jci/jci-documents/contact-us/submit-a-jci-standards-interpretation-question/jci-hospitalstandards_7thedition_faq_120820.pdf)

To continuously support our accredited organizations in meeting JCI requirements, tabled below are new Frequently Asked Question from the *Joint Commission International Accreditation Standards for Hospitals, 7th Edition*.

Standard	Subject	Interpretation Question	Response
ACC.4.1 ACC.4.2	Discharge Summary	<p>In the intent of ACC.4.2, it is stated that a discharge summary should include "(e) all medications to be taken at home." The same phrase also appears in the intent of ACC.4.1. Does the phrase "all medications" mean any medications that has been prescribed at discharge from our hospital?</p> <p>Or should organizations also include medications that a patient has been prescribed by other physicians prior to admission to the hospital and that the patient has to keep (or restart) taking after discharge?</p>	<p>Standard ACC.4.1 addresses the discharge education that is given to the patient upon discharge and Standard ACC.4.2 addresses the discharge summary, which is more thorough, detailing the patient's admission and care and is contained in the patient's medical record.</p> <p>Both standards require that the medications to be taken at home are contained in the education and the summary. The phrase "<i>all medications to be taken at home</i>" refers to both the medications that were prescribed by providers as a part of the patient's care and also those medications that the patient has been prescribed by other providers that are known to the hospital.</p> <p>Standard MMU.4 requires the hospital to complete a medication reconciliation process upon admission to compare the list of currently prescribed medications against all newly prescribed or ordered medications. It is noted in the intent that it may not be possible for the hospital to obtain a complete list for many reasons, such as the patient or family not knowing what medications the patient takes or being unwilling to do so. It is described in the intent of Standard MMU.4 that the hospital should make a credible effort to compile this list. A <i>credible effort</i> is described as "contacting the patient's pharmacy and/or family members or consulting with the patient's primary physician." Based upon this list of medications that the patient should either continue to take or begin taking at home, these medications are included in the information detailed in Standards ACC.4.1 and ACC.4.2.</p>

JCI encourages customers to submit all standards-related questions through the Standards Interpretation webpage at <http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/contact-us/submit-a-jci-standards-interpretation-question/>