Gift Policy Reminder

Occasionally, and especially during the holiday season, staff at accredited and certified health care organizations want to provide Joint Commission International (JCI) surveyors and reviewers with gifts. Although appreciative of these kind thoughts, JCI has a gift policy that prohibits the acceptance of any gifts related to accreditation. This policy is designed to ensure the integrity of JCI’s accreditation and certification decision process, as well as, to ensure independence in business judgment. JCI’s official policy regarding what can be accepted from health care organizations seeking accreditation with respect to gifts¹ is summarized as follows:

- JCI employees involved with the accreditation and certification decision process (specifically, surveyors and reviewers) cannot accept any gift of value from a surveyed/reviewed or accredited/certified organization. A modest on-site meal is acceptable for efficiency purposes and is not considered a gift.
- Very few exceptions are allowable for accepting gifts. In order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, it is in the best interest of organizations—as well as surveyors and reviewers—if no gifts are offered.
- Cash, cash equivalents, or entertainment cannot be accepted.
- If an organization feels it necessary to provide something, then promotional mementos and souvenirs of nominal value² are not considered gifts and can be accepted if given after the survey or review and when there is no apparent attempt to influence a business decision. Good judgment and caution are necessary in these situations.

Questions may be directed to Fran Carroll, Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer and Senior Assistant General Counsel, The Joint Commission.

¹ Gifts can include anything of value given to or by JCI employees, including cash; gratuities; meals; gift certificates; tickets to sporting events, cultural or community events, or invitations to performances or other events; favors (specially arranged for the recipient and not commonly offered to everyone); discounts; free services; space; equipment; loans; education; lodging; or transportation. Gifts do not include emergency health care, security, or safety provisions to protect staff while on site for consultation or survey/review.

² A gift of “nominal value” is an item of little value, such as a promotional item (for example, a pen, coffee mug, cap, T-shirt) that carries an organization name or logo.