Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM COMMITTEE TO APPROVE DESIGNATION OF RESPONSBILITY FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HOSPITAL AND CLINICS ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS, CHICAGO

Action: Delegate Authority to Members of the University Health System Committee to Approve Designation of Responsibility for the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics Antibiotic Stewardship and Infection Prevention and Control Programs

Funding: No new funding required

This item relates to the requirements of the accrediting entity, The Joint Commission, placed upon the Board of Trustees to hold authority to designate (1) a qualified physician and/or pharmacist as the leader of the antibiotic stewardship program and (2) a qualified infection preventionist or infection control professional to be responsible for the infection prevention and control program.

The Joint Commission is the principal accrediting body for the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics (Hospital). The Joint Commission is a private sector, U.S.-based, not-for-profit organization that operates accreditation programs for a fee to subscriber hospitals and other healthcare organizations. Across the U.S., The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 22,000 healthcare organizations and programs. Benefits of being an accredited hospital include:

* organizing and strengthening patient safety efforts;
* improvements in risk management and risk reduction;
* periodic on-site independent reviews, measured against established accreditation standards;
* recognition by insurers and other third-party payors; and
* “deemed” status for purposes of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement.

With regard to the last benefit, for a hospital to participate in and receive payment from the Medicare and Medicaid programs it must meet detailed eligibility requirements for program participation, including a certification of compliance with the conditions of participation as set forth in federal regulations. Since 1965, hospitals with Joint Commission accreditation have been “deemed” to meet the Medicare hospitals’ conditions of participation.

As described below, among The Joint Commission’s accreditation standards are requirements related to a hospital’s leadership structure and the governing body’s responsibilities and required actions for the conduct of the hospital. In the case of the Hospital, the governing body is the Board of Trustees (Board).

The Joint Commission requires that the hospital’s governing body, based on the recommendation of the medical staff and pharmacy leaders**,** designate a physician and/or pharmacist who is qualified through education, training, or experience in infectious diseases and/or antibiotic stewardship as the leader(s) of the antibiotic stewardship program.[[1]](#footnote-1) Hospital pharmacy leadership and the Hospital Medical Staff Executive Committee (MSEC) will recommend a physician and/or pharmacist who is so qualified through education, training, or experience in infectious diseases and/or antibiotic stewardship as the leader of the antibiotic stewardship program.

The Joint Commission also requires that the hospital governing body, based on the recommendation of the medical staff and nursing leaders**,** designate an infection preventionist(s) or infection control professional(s) qualified through education, training, experience, or certification in infection prevention to be responsible for the infection prevention and control program.[[2]](#footnote-2) Hospital nursing leadership and the Hospital Medical Staff Executive Committee (MSEC) will recommend an individual(s) qualified through education, training, experience, or certification in infection prevention to be responsible for the Hospital infection prevention and control program.

As these two designations relate to the responsibilities of the governing body of the Hospital, once approved by pharmacy leadership or nursing leadership, respectively, and the MSEC, the appointments require approval by the Board. Delegating the final approval to two voting members of the University Health System Committee (UHS Committee) would allow a nimbler approach and engage members of the Board with particular familiarity with healthcare issues. The members of the UHS Committee are familiar with hospital operations and will be more readily available to review and act in timely fashion on recommended appointments, which occur periodically. In addition, this delegation mirrors similar delegations by the Board in 2010 concerning Hospital medical staff credentialing and privileging decisions and in 2018 concerning approvals of Hospital policies. Accordingly, it is requested that the Board approve and confirm delegating the authority to appoint a physician and/or pharmacist as the leader(s) of the antibiotic stewardship program and delegating the authority to appoint the individual(s) responsible for the Hospital infection prevention and control program as described above to any two voting members of the Board’s UHS Committee.

Therefore, the chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the concurrence of the vice chancellor for health affairs, University of Illinois Chicago, recommends that the Board authorize any two voting members of the Board who also are members of the UHS Committee to act on recommendations from Hospital nursing leadership or Hospital pharmacy leadership and the MSEC, or as may otherwise be permitted or contemplated, to approve:

1. designation of a physician and/or pharmacist as the leader of the antibiotic stewardship program and;
2. designation of an infection preventionist or infection control professional to be responsible for the Hospital infection prevention and control program.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *the General Rules Concerning University Organizations and Procedures*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University of Illinois System concurs.

1. Source: Joint Commission Accreditation Standard MM.09.01.01, EP #11. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Source: Joint Commission Accreditation Standard IC.04.01.01, EP #1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)