



August 1, 2007

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to inform you that The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners has appointed Mark R. Chassin, M.D., M.P.P., M.P.H., to lead The Joint Commission as its next President effective January 1, 2008.

Currently, Mark Chassin is the Edmond A. Guggenheim Professor of Health Policy and Chairman of the Department of Health Policy at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, and Executive Vice President for Excellence in Patient Care at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Chassin served as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health. He is a board-certified internist and practiced emergency medicine for 12 years. His background also includes service in the federal government and many years of health services and health policy research.

The Board of Commissioners has the utmost confidence in his ability to lead The Joint Commission with intelligence and vision as the organization continues its mission to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public. His knowledge and experience in health care, and his personal priority for health care quality portend a smooth and seamless leadership transition for this organization.


While at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Chassin built a nationally recognized quality improvement program. The focus of the program was on achieving substantial gains in all aspects of quality of care, encompassing safety, clinical outcomes, the experiences of patients and families, and the working environment of caregivers. Dr. Chassin's research during his 12 years at Mount Sinai focused on developing health care quality measures; using those measures in quality improvement; and understanding the relationship of quality measurement and improvement to health policy. More recently, he has expanded his research program to include a number of intervention trials that concentrate on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care.

Dr. Chassin has been recognized for his contributions to the fields of quality measurement and improvement with several honors. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was selected in the first group of honorees as a lifetime member of the National Associates of the National Academies, a new program which recognizes career contributions. In addition, Dr. Chassin was a member of the IOM committee that authored "To Err is Human" and "Crossing the Quality Chasm." He is a recipient of the Founders' Award of the American College of Medical Quality and the Ellwood Individual Award of the Foundation for Accountability.

Dr. O'Leary, who has led The Joint Commission for the past 21 years, will become President Emeritus of The Joint Commission on January 1, 2008.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Chassin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Nahrwold".

David L. Nahrwold, M.D.  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
The Joint Commission