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until we can unify the entire country 100 percent under a red trauma center map, our hats off to the red, white, and blue.

Throughout the year, we will be highlighting the work of the

NTDB through brief monthly reports in the *Bulletin*. The full NTDB Annual Report Version 5.0 is available on the ACS Web site as a PDF file and a PowerPoint presentation at [http://](http://www.ntdb.org)

[www.ntdb.org](http://www.ntdb.org).

If you are interested in submitting your trauma center's data, contact Melanie L. Neal, Manager, NTDB, at [mneal@facs.org](mailto:mneal@facs.org).

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## A look at the Joint Commission

# Performance measurement data

In 1910, Boston surgeon Ernest Amory Codman, MD, FACS, proposed the "end result system of hospital standardization" that called for monitoring, documenting, and publicly reporting surgical outcomes. Dr. Codman was a founding member of the American College of Surgeons and helped establish its Hospital Standardization Program, the precursor to the Joint Commission.

Nearly a century later, the Joint Commission integrates outcomes and other performance measurement data into its accreditation process. New performance measurement data help surgeons prevent surgical infections in blood vessel, colon/large intestine, coronary artery bypass graft, hip joint replacement,

hysterectomy, knee replacement, and open heart surgeries. A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concludes the Joint Commission's use of performance measurement data has helped hospitals significantly improve the care of patients suffering from heart attacks, heart failure, and pneumonia.

In addition to being essential to the credibility of any evaluation activity for health care organizations, performance measurement data accomplish the following:

- Allow organizations to continuously monitor their performance
- Guide and stimulate continuous improvement in health care organizations
- Are essential to the cred-

ibility of any evaluation activity for health care organizations

- Supplements and help guide the standards-based survey process by providing a more targeted basis for the regular accreditation survey

The Joint Commission honors Dr. Codman's legacy with its Ernest Amory Codman Awards. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in the use of process and outcome measures to improve organization performance and quality of care.

Each month, this column will focus on activities of the Joint Commission that are relevant to surgeons. For more information on the Joint Commission, and to sign up for Joint Commission e-mail newsletters and announcements, visit [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org).

## Trauma meetings calendar

The following continuing medical education courses in trauma are cosponsored by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and Regional Committees:

- **Advances in Trauma,**

December 8–9, Kansas City, MO.

- **Trauma and Critical Care—2007**, March 26–28, 2007, Las Vegas, NV.

Complete course information can be viewed online (as it becomes available) through the

American College of Surgeons Web site at: <http://www.facs.org/trauma/cme/traumtgs.html>, or contact the Trauma Office at 312/202-5342.