The health care organization's accreditation decision may be impacted under the following circumstances:

- An SE MOS submitted on time does not meet preestablished levels of compliance and JCI requests an additional 120 days (or four months) of data that still does not meet preestablished levels of compliance.
- Submission of an SE MOS more than 90 days (or three months) after the mutually agreed-upon date.

On-Site Review of a Sentinel Event

JCI will generally not conduct an on-site review of a self-reported sentinel event unless it determines that a potential ongoing *Immediate Threat to Health or Safety* exists. An *Immediate Threat to Health or Safety* is a threat that represents immediate risk and may have serious adverse effects on the health or safety of patients and/or others. All potential Immediate Threats to Health or Safety are referred to Joint Commission International's executive leaders for authorization to conduct an unannounced for-cause survey. If an on-site survey is conducted, the health care organization will be billed a sufficient charge, based on an established fee schedule, to cover the costs of conducting such a survey.

Disclosable Information

If Joint Commission International receives an inquiry about the accreditation decision of a health care organization that has experienced a sentinel event, the health care organization's current accreditation status will be reported in the usual manner without referring to the sentinel event. If the inquirer specifically references the sentinel event, Joint Commission International will acknowledge that it is aware of the event and currently is working or has worked with the health care organization through the sentinel event review process, without disclosing details of the event. All details and materials related to the sentinel event are and will remain confidential.

Handling Sentinel Event–Related Documents

Joint Commission International restricts access to any submitted comprehensive systematic analysis and corrective action plan to the Office of Quality and Patient Safety in accordance with procedures designed to protect the confidentiality of the documents. Joint Commission International will retain any corrective action plan(s) resulting from the analysis of the sentinel event long enough to serve as the basis for appropriate follow-up activities, such as the SE MOS or other mutually agreed-upon documentation of sustained improvement. After the health care organization implements the corrective action plan and Joint Commission International verifies that it meets the established levels of compliance, the information contained in any electronically submitted analysis will be de-identified after the OQPS completes its review.

The Sentinel Event Database

Joint Commission International collects and analyzes aggregate data from the comprehensive systematic analyses, corrective action plans, and follow-up activities in its Sentinel Event Database. Joint Commission International develops and maintains the database in a manner that excludes health care organization, caregiver, and patient identifiers.

Aggregate data relating to root causes and risk reduction strategies for sentinel events that occur with significant frequency may form the basis for future error-prevention advice to health care organizations.

Overseeing the Sentinel Event Policy

The executive leaders of Joint Commission International are responsible for approval of this policy and overseeing its implementation. For more information about Joint Commission International's Sentinel Event Policy, visit Joint Commission International's website (https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/contact-us/sentinel-event-policy/).