

Dennis S. O’Leary, MD

Dr. O’Leary is President Emeritus of The Joint Commission. Under his leadership, The Joint Commission successfully transformed its accreditation process to focus on actual organization performance in the provision of patient care. This transformation set the stage for the progressive introduction of care-related outcomes and process measures, as well as national patient safety goals, into the accreditation process. Dr. O’Leary also oversaw the introduction of cutting-edge standards related to patient safety, pain management, use of patient restraints, and emergency preparedness. Most recently, he spearheaded the launching of a series of Joint Commission public policy initiatives which have addressed various issues including the nurse staffing crisis, health professions educational reform, health literacy, and the nexus between patient safety and the tort system. Dr. O’Leary earned his MD from Cornell University Medical College in New York and his BA from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After two years of internal medicine training at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, he completed his residency and hematology fellowship at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Hematology.

Dr. O’Leary has been active in a variety of professional activities. He served as President and Chairman of the Board of the District of Columbia Medical Society and was a founding member of the National Capital Area Health Care Coalition. After joining The Joint Commission, he became a Master of the American College of Physicians, as well as an initial Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives, an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, an honorary member of the American Dental Association, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2000, he was identified by *Modern Healthcare* as “one of the 25 most influential leaders in health care” during the past quarter century. Dr. O’Leary is also a past winner of the Distinguished Service Awards of the American Medical Association and of the American Health Information Management Association, as well as a recipient of the Joint Commission’s Ernest Amory Codman Award.