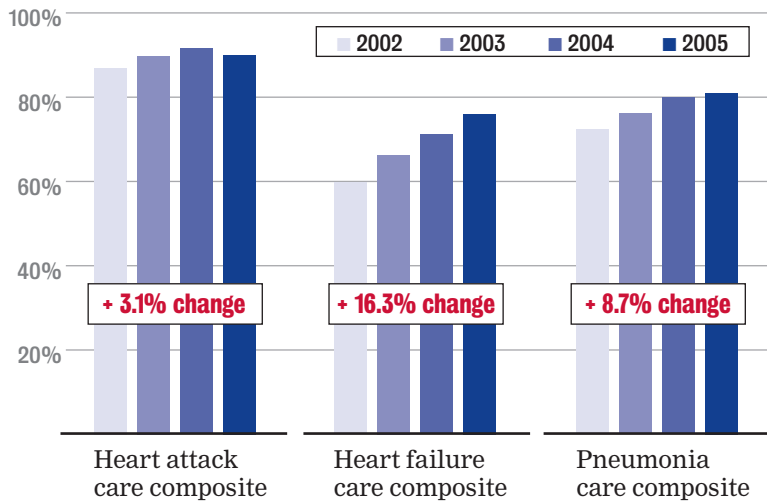


QUICKVIEW

ASSESSING QUALITY

In the first of a series of annual reports, the Joint Commission found that hospitals steadily improved their performance on measures of quality care for heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia from 2002 to 2005. However, quality of care varies by region, and there is still much room for improvement, the report said. "Improving America's Hospitals: A Report on Quality and Safety," updates the Joint Commission's July 21, 2005, *New England Journal of Medicine* study on hospital performance from 2002 to 2004 and includes data on how well the hospitals surveyed complied with Joint Commission standards and National Patient Safety Goals in 2005. Some details from the report:

Percent change in performance measure compliance from 2002-2005



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The 2005 Joint Commission survey of 1,573 hospitals found these to be most difficult standards and safety goals for hospitals to meet consistently:

(Percent of hospitals in compliance)

