

ADVANCED ORTHOPAEDIC CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

1. What is the AAAHC Advanced Orthopaedic Certification Program?

The AAAHC Advanced Orthopaedic Certification program assesses an organization's use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, ongoing performance improvement strategies, and an organizational infrastructure that promotes excellence. Through an onsite survey conducted by a clinical surveyor experienced in the ambulatory orthopaedic setting, this program provides a comprehensive focus on transitions of care from pre-assessment through discharge and rehabilitation. Facilities can choose from two types of advanced certification, total joint replacement or spine, or pursue a combined certification that addresses both services.

2. What is the difference between accreditation and certification?

While accreditation and certification are both granted at the organization level, certification is specialty-focused and signals that the organization has achieved a level of excellence in providing specialized care.

3. How do I acquire the AAAHC 2018 Certification Handbook for Advanced Orthopaedics?

Organizations that complete the Application for Orthopaedic Certification will automatically receive an electronic copy of the *2018 Certification Handbook for Advanced Orthopaedics*. Alternatively, print copies may be purchased at www.aaahc.org/publications.

Organizations that commence their Application for Certification within three months of the date of handbook purchase are eligible to have the purchase fee credited toward the application fee. An application is valid for twelve months from the date the organization initiates the online application process.

If the application is incomplete when received and is not considered complete by AAAHC within twelve months, or if the organization does not schedule a survey during the twelve-month period, the application expires and the organization must submit a new application, along with an additional application fee.

4. What does advanced orthopaedic certification entail?

AAAHC Advanced Orthopaedic Certification focuses on leadership effectiveness and care integration in the delivery of orthopaedic services and is further broken down into: Strategic Planning, Providers and Staff, Quality and Safety, Service Delivery, Episodes of Care, and Consumer and Community Engagement.

5. What does the application fee include?

The one-time application fee includes application processing, electronic access to the *2018 Certification Handbook for Advanced Orthopaedics*, and certification readiness resources, including webinars and other tools. For additional information, contact our Orthopaedic Certification Team via email: orthopaedic@aaahc.org or call 847-853-6060.

6. Can an orthopaedic certification survey be scheduled to occur at the same time as an accreditation survey?

No. An organization must be accredited by AAAHC before applying for certification. Once you have completed your initial accreditation and received a decision, you may submit an Application for Certification and AAAHC will work with you to schedule your certification survey. Note that, at minimum, 20 cases specific to total joint replacement or spine must be completed within the 12 months prior to initiating an Application for Certification.

7. If an ASC is already accredited by AAAHC, how long does it take from the time the application is received by AAAHC to actually completing certification for advanced certification?

Readiness to submit an application will depend on the results of the organization's self-assessment and the level of compliance with the Standards for the single or combined program. On average it may take 3-6 months for an organization to be ready to submit an application. AAAHC will work closely with your ASC to schedule the survey on your preferred dates.

8. Can I use the same documents from my accreditation Application for Survey for my orthopaedic certification Application for Survey?

The supporting documents should be specific to the orthopaedic program at your center.

9. Can both Total Joint Replacement and Spine certification surveys be scheduled to occur at the same time?

Yes, an organization may request to have both surveys scheduled for the same time.

10. Are outpatient hospital settings (HOPDs) eligible to apply for the AAAHC Certification program?

No. The Standards are designed for ambulatory surgical settings (ASCs), not HOPDs.

11. Are there any procedure volume criteria for program participation?

- a. The specialty service completed a minimum of 20 procedures for each specialty type (total joint replacements, and/or complex spine procedures) within the 12 months prior to submitting an Application for Certification.*
- b. The median number of procedures for each specialty type (total joint replacements, and/or complex spine procedures; includes inpatient and outpatient) performed by surgeons participating in the specialty services is at least 50 prior to the date of Application for Certification submission. The median number of at least 50 must be maintained annually.*

12. Does the median number of procedures include inpatient and outpatient procedures?

The median number of procedures for each specialty type (total joint replacements, and/or complex spine procedures; includes inpatient and outpatient) performed by surgeons participating in the specialty services is at least 50 prior to the date of Application for Certification submission. The median number of at least 50 must be maintained annually.

13. Does AAAHC participate in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Distinction?

Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue recognizes AAAHC for its total joint program; however, Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue does not recognize the AAAHC Spine Certification for Blue Distinction.

* Eligibility will be reviewed and verified at time of survey.
Ineligibility will result in survey cancellation.