



NEWS RELEASE

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New AAAHC Accreditation Handbook Enhances Medicare Deemed Status Standards *Announcing Release of v41 for MDS Ambulatory Accreditation*

(Skokie, Ill.) Sept. 1, 2020 – With its mission to improve health care quality through accreditation, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) has published version 41 of the *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status*. Released today, the revised edition provides the most current information and guidance for organizations seeking AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) accreditation and promotes best practice for the safety and care of patients and staff within the ambulatory setting.

“As we begin our fifth decade of service to ambulatory health care centers, the updated handbook reflects refinements in our Standards and delivery of improved tools to provide guidance for facility quality improvement efforts,” said AAAHC Board Chair, Ira Cheifetz, DMD. “The revised Standards uphold the AAAHC *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy by driving excellence and relevance and survey readiness throughout the 1,095 days of the accreditation term.”

Following an extensive review process and multiple public comment periods with accredited organizations, partner associations, committees, surveyors, and staff, the moderate revisions in v41 reflect realignment of Standards for improved clarity of requirements. For ease of review and implementation, the handbook contains a crosswalk identifying changes from the previous version.

In addition, reformatted v41 of the *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status* includes “elements of compliance” and compliance ratings charts. These additions to the MDS handbook increase transparency about how surveyors will evaluate compliance and allow organizations to easily conduct self-assessments that may more closely align with onsite surveys.

“While the revised 2020 version of the handbook includes only moderate changes, it presents the expectations for demonstrating compliance in a more concise, cohesive format,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “We anticipate a seamless transition for organizations to integrate policies, procedures, or programs to be compliant with the v41 changes.”

AAAHC has prepared educational support materials for the updated handbook, including the *Moving Forward with Enhanced v41 MDS Standards* webinar. In addition, the upcoming virtual *Achieving Accreditation* Conference, September 14-17, will address these changes, providing an opportunity for organizations to connect with staff to answer questions. To view the webinar

and for more information, please visit <https://www.aaahc.org/education/standards-and-policy-updates/>.

About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. It is recognized by third-party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit www.aaahc.org.

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