

AAAHC has implemented the transformational *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, a call-to-action that equips leaders with the best of what they need to operationalize quality practices. The *1095 Strong* initiative centers on providing accreditation tools, resources, and relevant education to bring meaningful value to organizations and promote compliance with the Standards, all 1,095 days of the accreditation term.

For more than 40 years, the AAAHC has provided facilities with relevant Standards and education for improvement and have updated our Standards regularly to reflect proven developments in quality, risk management, and member rights and utilization. AAAHC is proud to announce the publication of the *Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans* and *Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans* released as version 41. The new version of Standards will apply to all organizations seeking accreditation with AAAHC and is the outcome of valuable feedback from our Standards Development Committee, Expert Content Committee, client organizations, surveyors, partners, and staff.

Question	Response
1. What is new in this version of the Standards (v41)?	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, 41 and the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i>, v41 provide a seamless transition for quality improvement efforts. To summarize the changes in both handbooks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards have not substantively changed. We do not anticipate that organizations will need to perform major overhauls to their policies, procedures, or programs to be compliant with the v41 changes. • Please consult Standards Revisions in the Resources section for more details about v41 changes. • Complimentary electronic PDF version available to all currently accredited organizations or those in the process of becoming accredited. <p>Specific to <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, v41:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The handbook contains a moderate realignment of a few Standards based on the elimination of the previous “Clinical Records” and “Environment of Care” chapters. • Changes better align the responsibility of the health plan to monitor compliance with policies related to clinical records and environment and take corrective actions as needed. • Chapters have been renumbered for consistency between the Health Plans and FEHB Health Plans Handbooks.
2. When will the new handbook version be released?	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, v41 and the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i>, v41 will be released on Monday, November 2, 2020.</p>

Question	Response
<p>3. Where can I get a copy of the handbook?</p>	<p>To further support the AAAHC <i>1095 Strong, quality every day</i> philosophy to ensure AAAHC accredited organizations provide high-quality care all 1,095 days of their accreditation cycle, electronic copies of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans, v41</i> and the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans, v41</i> will be available to all accredited organizations. If you are an AAAHC accredited organization and did not receive an email notification of this release, please contact Lee Todd at ltodd@aaahc.org or 847.853.6067.</p> <p>Others interested in purchasing <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans, v41</i> and/or the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans, v41</i> can place an order here.</p> <p>Outdated order forms are removed from the website, guiding orders to be placed online via the “Publications” page.</p>
<p>4. I’m currently accredited, do I get a free copy of v41? How do I access it?</p>	<p>On November 2, all accredited organizations in the AAAHC Health Plans/FEHB Health Plans accreditation program will receive an email communication- “AAAHC Releases Enhanced Standards”. If you are unable to locate this notification, please contact Lee Todd at ltodd@aaahc.org or 847.853.6067 to gain access to a complimentary electronic PDF version of the handbook.</p>
<p>5. When do the new (v41) standards become effective?</p>	<p>For both the Health Plan and FEHB Health Plan accreditation programs, the effective date of version 41 is January 1, 2021.</p> <p>AAAHC will survey all organizations with an accreditation anniversary/expiration date on or after January 1, 2021 against this set of Standards, including if an organization’s survey is scheduled before January 1st as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Plans: on and after December 1, 2020 • FEHB Health Plans: on and after December 8, 2020 <p>In either scenario, AAAHC accreditation surveys completed prior to December 1st and 8th, 2020 respectively will use the current version of the AAAHC handbook Standards—not v41.</p>
<p>6. If my anniversary is in November but my survey is scheduled for January, will the new Standards still apply to my survey?</p>	<p>Organizations with an anniversary/expiration date prior to January 1, 2021 but scheduled for a survey on or after January 1, 2021, will be accountable for compliance with v41.</p>
<p>7. How does v41 impact an organization that is due for an interim survey in February?</p>	<p>Regardless of expiration/anniversary date, all organizations are expected to be in compliance with v41 after January 1, 2021. This includes any interim or other mid-cycle surveys that may be conducted after that date.</p>
<p>8. Is AAAHC providing a crosswalk between v41 and the current version of Standards?</p>	<p>Yes. For ease of review and implementation, each AAAHC handbook contains a crosswalk identifying substantive changes from the previous version.</p>

Question	Response												
<p>9. Is the hard copy of v41 available for order? If not, when?</p>	<p>All AAAHC accredited organizations in the Health Plans/FEHB Health Plans program will receive a complimentary electronic pdf of <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, v41 or the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i>, v41. Hard copies will be available for purchase on the website starting November 2, 2020. However, copies will not ship for 10 days after the order has been received.</p> <p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, v41 or the <i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i>, v41 place an order here.</p>												
<p>10. What is the handbook price? Is there a different price for PDF vs. hard copy?</p>	<p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the handbook, place an order here</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="610 747 1515 926"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="610 747 1013 783">v41 Handbook</th> <th data-bbox="1013 747 1192 783">Hard copy</th> <th data-bbox="1192 747 1308 783">PDF</th> <th data-bbox="1308 747 1515 783">Combo</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 783 1013 852"><i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i>, v41</td> <td data-bbox="1013 783 1192 852">\$275 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1192 783 1308 852">\$275</td> <td data-bbox="1308 783 1515 852">\$340 plus shipping</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 852 1013 926"><i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i>, v41</td> <td data-bbox="1013 852 1192 926">\$275 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1192 852 1308 926">\$275</td> <td data-bbox="1308 852 1515 926">\$340 plus shipping</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	v41 Handbook	Hard copy	PDF	Combo	<i>Accreditation Handbook for Health Plans</i> , v41	\$275 plus shipping	\$275	\$340 plus shipping	<i>Accreditation Handbook for FEHB Health Plans</i> , v41	\$275 plus shipping	\$275	\$340 plus shipping
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<p>11. Is an “addendum” available that explains the changes to the Standards vs. the current version?</p>	<p>No, AAAHC is not preparing an addendum. The v41 handbooks do include an easy-to-use crosswalk in the resource section of the handbook that highlights the differences between v41 and the current handbook that outlines the changes incorporated.</p> <p><i>Note: Addenda to the Standards are issued when specific changes are required mid-cycle in the Standards development process due to regulatory requirements, corrections, omissions, or other changes required to the AAAHC Standards.</i></p>												
<p>12. Are updates to the Advanced Orthopaedic Certification or PCMH programs available?</p>	<p>AAAHC does not plan to update the Advanced Orthopaedic Certification or PCMH handbooks in 2020.</p>												