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**AAAHC Calls for 2022-23 *Bernard A. Kershner Innovations in Quality Improvement*
Award Submissions**

The revered award honors AAAHC-accredited organizations for exemplary quality improvement studies

(Skokie, Ill.) August 9, 2022 — Today, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) opens submissions for the 2022-23 *Bernard A. Kershner Innovations in Quality Improvement (QI) Awards*. Named in honor of the late Bernard A. Kershner, a leader in ambulatory health care and distinguished past Chair of the AAAHC Institute Board of Trustees, the prestigious award program recognizes improved performance for a known and measurable clinical, service, safety or operations problem or opportunity through QI.

AAAHC-accredited organizations may visit aaahc.org/submissions to access the 2022-23 award application and program requirements.

“The Kershner QI Award recognizes AAAHC-accredited organizations that commit themselves to making a difference in patients’ lives by continually improving the quality of care they provide. Through comprehensive and structured quality improvement initiatives, this year’s winners provided exemplary studies that resulted in improvements in patient safety, quality of care and operational efficiencies,” said Julie Lynch, MS, BSN, RN, Director, AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement. “We are excited to learn about key innovations in the delivery of care our accredited organizations will enter for the 2022-23 awards program.”

The AAAHC Expert Panel uses the 10 components of an effective QI study to evaluate all submissions for clarity and conciseness. Additionally, they will be seeking evidence of innovative thinking, demonstrated teamwork in study design and implementation, and examples that can be used in other ambulatory health care settings and for other ambulatory health care issues. This time-honored award reflects the vision of Bernie Kershner for excellence and quality and his drive to establish procedures for his surgery centers that, according to Kershner, were “far above what could possibly be required of a health facility to raise the bar for professional competency at every single level of the organization.”

The 2021-22 primary care Kershner Award recipient, University Health Services, University of Oregon, addressed antibiotic (mis)use in the setting of uncomplicated acute bronchitis.

“I believe strongly in the power of continuous QI. It is critical for providers and patients to be equipped with information and educational tools to make appropriate treatment decisions using shared decision-making,” said Anna Hejinian, MD, Medical Director, University Health Services, University of Oregon. “Our QI study is part of a broader commitment to create a culture of antibiotic stewardship at University Health Services. We are proud to be the Kershner primary care award winner for 2021-2022.”

The surgical/procedural care winner, The Knoxville Ophthalmology ASC, LLC, focused on preventing postoperative surgical site infections and complications.

“The Knoxville Ophthalmology ASC, LLC is honored to be the 2021-22 Kershner surgical/procedural care winner. The most distinguished QI studies are recognized by the Kershner QI Awards each year,” said Ashley Archer, BSN, RN, CNOR, Administrator, Eye Surgery Center of East Tennessee. “It is of utmost importance to follow all infection prevention measures. We have successfully kept our infection rate well below the benchmark and in turn, ensured safe care for all patients having a procedure at our center.”

AAAHC will accept submissions until November 11, 2022 at 11:59 PM CT. To learn about the submission process for the 2022-23 Kershner QI Award, please click here www.aaahc.org/KershnerQISubmit.

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About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,600 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 onsite review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation, along with specialized programs including Advanced Orthopaedic Certification and Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification, demonstrates an organization’s commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. AAAHC Accreditation and Certification Programs are recognized by third-party payors, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit www.aaahc.org.