

AAAHC has implemented the transformational *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, a call-to-action that equips ambulatory 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, AAAHC has provided facilities with relevant Standards and education for improvement of their patient care environment and has updated our Standards regularly to reflect proven developments in medicine, technology, and specialty practice. AAAHC is proud to announce the publication of two new handbooks, the *Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care* and the *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status*, both released as version 42 (v42). These new versions of Standards will apply to organizations either seeking Ambulatory (AMB) or Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) accreditation with AAAHC. Each handbook reflects valuable feedback from our Standards Development Committee, client organizations, surveyors, partners, and staff.

Question	Response
<b>1. What has changed from the v41 Standards to the new v42 Standards?</b>	While v41 to v42 updates for AMB and MDS are minimal, a few key revisions should be recognized, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of new terminology such as Universal and Selective Standards</li> <li>• For AMB, there are four substantive changes and for MDS there are three substantive changes. See the crosswalk contained in the handbooks for details</li> <li>• Any references to Standard IDs embedded within the requirement have been removed for ease of use</li> </ul>
<b>2. How do I learn more about the Standards?</b>	On Dec 15, 2022 and Jan 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM CT, AAAHC will present a complimentary educational webinar, <i>Your Successful Transition to AAAHC v42 Standards</i> . The webinar describes how this new release, while not substantively different from v41, offers quality revisions for improved clarity and reduced redundancy. To register for one of the webinar dates and see supporting resources, please visit <a href="http://aaahc.org">aaahc.org</a> .  Many organizations have also registered for the <i>Achieving Accreditation</i> conference, hosted onsite at the Red Rock Resort & Spa in Las Vegas, NV on Dec 2-3, 2022. They will hear AAAHC faculty and staff explain best practices for complying with v42 Standards. While registration for Dec 2022 is now closed, organizations may join the <a href="#">waitlist here</a> or plan to attend the conference in Mar 2023. Dates and location to be announced at a later date.
<b>3. When will the new handbooks be released?</b>	The digital <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i> and <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i> v42 will be released Dec 12, 2022. The print handbooks will be available in early Jan 2023.

Question	Response
<p><b>4. Where can I get a copy of the handbooks?</b></p>	<p>To further support the AAAHC <i>1095 Strong, quality every day</i> philosophy where organizations accredited by AAAHC provide high-quality care all 1,095 days of their accreditation cycle, digital copies of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i> and the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i> v42 will be available for download to all accredited organizations. If you are a AAAHC-accredited organization and did not receive an email notification of this release, please contact AAAHC at <a href="mailto:info@aaahc.org">info@aaahc.org</a> or 847-853-6060.</p> <p>Others interested in purchasing a copy of the available v42 handbooks can place an order online from the <a href="#">AAAHC Store</a>.</p>
<p><b>5. I just purchased the v41 handbook. Can I receive a refund?</b></p>	<p><i>All handbook sales are final.</i> However, if you purchased the handbook between Nov 7 and Dec 11, 2022, AAAHC will provide a replacement digital copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v42 or <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v42 (whichever program was already purchased), when available. To receive your copy, contact AAAHC at <a href="mailto:info@aaahc.org">info@aaahc.org</a> or 847-853-6060.</p>
<p><b>6. Are v41 handbooks still available for purchase?</b></p>	<p>You may purchase a digital v41 <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v41 or <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 through the <a href="#">AAAHC Store</a> until Dec 12, 2022.</p>
<p><b>7. I'm currently accredited, do I get a free copy of v42? How do I access it?</b></p>	<p>On Dec 12, 2022, all AAAHC-accredited organizations in AMB and MDS accreditation programs will receive an email with retrieval instructions for a complimentary digital copy. If you are unable to locate this notification, please contact <a href="mailto:info@aaahc.org">info@aaahc.org</a> or 847-853-6060 to gain access to a complimentary digital version of the handbook.</p> <p>Hard copies of the v42 handbooks will be available for purchase online via the <a href="#">AAAHC Store</a>. Pre-orders will be accepted for hard copy handbooks beginning Nov 8, 2022. <b>Please note:</b> Preorder payments will be processed immediately, while shipments will be processed once the hard copies are available in early Jan 2023.</p>
<p><b>8. How do I know which handbook applies to me?</b></p>	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v42 is designed for ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) seeking AAAHC accreditation via participation in the AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) program. This handbook includes policies and procedures relevant to Medicare Deemed Status accreditation.</p> <p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v42 is designed for ambulatory health care organizations seeking AAAHC accreditation (AMB).</p> <p>Refer to your Survey Confirmation letter to understand which handbook will apply to your survey.</p>

Question	Response												
<p><b>9. When do the new (v42) Standards become effective for AMB and MDS?</b></p>	<p>For both the AMB and MDS accreditation programs, the v42 effective date is Mar 1, 2023. Refer to your Survey Confirmation letter to understand which Standards version will be used for your survey.</p> <p>If your anniversary date is Mar 1, 2023 or after, v42 Standards will be used. You may also contact AAAHC at <a href="mailto:info@aaahc.org">info@aaahc.org</a> or 847-853-6060 to determine which program may best fit your needs or clarification on the program in which you are currently enrolled.</p>												
<p><b>10. How does v42 impact an organization that is due for an interim survey in December?</b></p>	<p>All organizations are expected to be in compliance with v42 Standards on Mar 1, 2023. For AAAHC-accredited organizations with an anniversary date on or after this date, and a survey scheduled prior to Mar 1, 2023, you may be surveyed to the v42 Standards.</p>												
<p><b>11. Is AAAHC providing a crosswalk between v42 and the current version of Standards?</b></p>	<p>Yes. Included in each handbook, AAAHC is providing a v42 crosswalk with details on the Standards changes. AAAHC also encourages organizations to participate in the complimentary educational webinar <i>Your Successful Transition to AAAHC v42 Standards</i> on Dec 15, 2022 and Jan 11, 2023 to learn about v42 Standards.</p>												
<p><b>12. Is the hard copy of v42 available for order? If not, when?</b></p>	<p>All AAAHC-accredited organizations in the AMB or MDS accreditation programs will receive a complimentary digital copy of the relevant v42 handbook. Hard copies will be available for preorder purchase online through the <a href="#">AAAHC Store</a> starting Nov 8, 2022. However, hard copies will not ship until early Jan.</p> <p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of either v42 program handbook, place an order <a href="#">here</a>.</p>												
<p><b>13. What is the earliest date that an organization can be surveyed against v42?</b></p>	<p>Organizations should refer to their Survey Confirmation letter for Standards survey guidance. Regardless of expiration/anniversary date, all organizations are expected to be in compliance with v42 on Mar 1, 2023. This includes any interim or other intracycle surveys that may be conducted on or after that date.</p>												
<p><b>14. What is the handbook price? Is there a different price for digital vs. hard copy?</b></p>	<p>The price for the digital and hard copy version of the handbooks is the same, but additional fees are charged to cover shipping costs.</p> <p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of either v42 program handbook, place an order <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="610 1598 1511 1776"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="610 1598 943 1650">v42 Handbook</th> <th data-bbox="943 1598 1122 1650">Hard copy</th> <th data-bbox="1122 1598 1240 1650">Digital</th> <th data-bbox="1240 1598 1511 1650">Combo</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 1650 943 1713"><i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i></td> <td data-bbox="943 1650 1122 1713">\$425 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1122 1650 1240 1713">\$425</td> <td data-bbox="1240 1650 1511 1713">\$480 plus shipping</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 1713 943 1776"><i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i></td> <td data-bbox="943 1713 1122 1776">\$315 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1122 1713 1240 1776">\$315</td> <td data-bbox="1240 1713 1511 1776">\$380 plus shipping</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	v42 Handbook	Hard copy	Digital	Combo	<i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>	\$425 plus shipping	\$425	\$480 plus shipping	<i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>	\$315 plus shipping	\$315	\$380 plus shipping
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<p><b>15. If I purchase multiple copies of the handbook, can I get a discount?</b></p>	<p>AAAHC provides discounts for purchases of five or more copies of the handbook.</p> <p><i>If a client is interested in purchasing more than five copies of a handbook, forward the opportunity to Renee/Jenn for pricing determination.</i></p>												

Question	Response
<p><b>16. Are updates to Advanced Orthopaedic Certification (AOC), Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), or Health Plan programs available?</b></p>	<p>AAAHC plans to publish v42 updates to the AOC and PCMH Handbooks. In early 2023, we will communicate availability.</p> <p>Updates on Health Plan and Health Plan FEHB Handbooks are expected later in 2023.</p>
<p><b>17. How can organizations learn about the v42 changes?</b></p>	<p>On Dec 15, 2022 and Jan 11, 2023, AAAHC will present a complimentary educational webinar, <i>Your Successful Transition to AAAHC v42 Standards</i>. The webinar describes how this new release will enhance your quality improvements efforts.</p> <p>To register for the webinar and see supporting resources, please visit <a href="http://aaahc.org">aaahc.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>18. Are there any AAAHC policy changes in the next handbook version?</b></p>	<p>AAAHC has updated and streamlined its Policies and Procedures (P&amp;Ps) but overall, the changes are minimal.</p> <p>With new terminology, including Universal and Selective Standards, as well as new definitions for business units, the updates found in v42 will lead us into the future.</p> <p>We've updated the MDS post-survey activities based on Survey Type to reflect a change to the process for ASCs with a CCN. An ASC with a CCN undergoing an initial MDS survey is eligible for a Medicare Follow up survey if condition-level deficiencies are found. This means that they may also be also eligible for waivers.</p>