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**AAAHC 2022 *Quality Roadmap* Offers New Insight into Surveyor Findings  
in Ambulatory Settings**

*Infection prevention, control and safety, personnel, and quality of care have  
increased in deficiency citations*

(Skokie, Ill.) December 14, 2022 – Today, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) releases its 2022 *Quality Roadmap*, a comprehensive analysis of data from 2,016 accreditation surveys conducted in 2021-2022. AAAHC encourages health care organizations to utilize this resource to establish benchmarks and identify Standards in areas of high compliance and high deficiency as they pursue ongoing quality improvement throughout the 1,095 days of their three-year accreditation term.

“With this annually published tool, our accredited facilities can identify themes that deserve special attention as they pursue ongoing quality improvement throughout the accreditation term,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “In this way, we can learn from each other and take corrective action, as necessary. While our 2022 *Quality Roadmap* report indicates that most facilities surveyed are in compliance with the majority of Standards, it also includes several areas that warrant improvement.”

The 2022 report provides a thorough analysis of accredited organization compliance ratings for AAAHC Standards based on onsite surveys conducted January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022. Organizations surveyed include ambulatory surgery centers (ASC), Medicare Deemed Status ASCs (MDS ASC), office-based surgery practices (OBS), and primary care settings (PC).

**Findings on High Deficiency Standards**

Although many deficiencies are similar to previous years’ findings, a few new critical areas related to infection prevention and control and safety, personnel, and quality of care have increased in deficiency citations. Notably, AAAHC surveyors observed that facilities continue to have challenges in emergency preparedness, documentation management, and credentialing and privileging.

**Findings on High Compliance Standards**

The analysis from thousands of surveys also indicates that accredited organizations have demonstrated compliance and shown improvement in key areas within Ambulatory and Medicare Deemed Status Standards, which include:

- Conduct business as a legally constituted entity
- Ensure professional development and support the improvement of staff performance
- A physician or qualified provider is present to address medical emergencies
- Educate patients regarding their condition or illness
- Pharmaceutical services are directed by a licensed provider

“Our annual *Quality Roadmap* is designed to serve as a tool for self-assessment where each organization can measure their performance to improve the quality of care delivered to patients,” said Julie Lynch, MS, BSN, RN, director, Institute for Quality Improvement. “This annual analysis provides one of many tools for health care facilities and their staff to help them elevate the level of quality within their organization.”

The 2022 AAAHC *Quality Roadmap* is available for [download](#) today.

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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](http://www.aaahc.org).