



**NEWS RELEASE
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**AAAHC Releases Ambulatory Surgery
Considerations for Obesity and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Toolkit**

Much-Anticipated Resource Provides Guidance for Essential Preoperative, Intraoperative, and Postoperative Care

(Deerfield, Ill.) October 23, 2023 – The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) presents its newly enhanced *Ambulatory Surgery Considerations for Obesity and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Toolkit*. The much-anticipated toolkit emphasizes that health care providers must be equipped with updated knowledge on how to effectively identify and ensure the safety of patients with obesity and/or obstructive sleep apnea throughout the surgical process.

“As obesity continues to rise, health care providers must prioritize the safety and well-being of patients with these pre-existing conditions. Applying established guidelines for treating individuals with obesity and obstructive sleep apnea not only ensures their physical safety during procedures, but also underscores our commitment to helping deliver patient-centered care,” said Julie Lynch, director of the Institute for Quality Improvement at AAAHC. “By incorporating specialized protocols into their practices, health care facilities demonstrate their dedication to addressing the unique needs of patients, fostering excellence in ambulatory care.”

Highlights of the updated toolkit include guidance for pre-procedure, intra-procedure, and post-procedure considerations, comorbidities, and updated considerations for obese patients that previously contracted COVID-19.

The comprehensive flowchart in the toolkit serves as a pre-procedure assessment resource for health care providers, weighing factors such as a patient's body mass index (BMI), sedation levels, and the presence of any preexisting conditions that might pose surgery-related challenges.

“The medical community understands the risk factors of obesity.” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO. “In this toolkit, we are addressing these specific challenges with the goal of better equipping providers with the knowledge to deliver exceptional care and to continue to demonstrate the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy that serves as a foundation for AAAHC and our accredited organizations.”

Additional information on AAAHC programs, products, process, client education, history, governance, and surveyors can be found at [AAAHC.org](https://www.aaahc.org). To order and learn more about the various AAAHC toolkits here, visit <https://store.aaahc.org/toolkits>.

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About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,700 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.