



ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION  
for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.

October 11, 2023

Re: Errata Revision Summary Sheet

For users of the *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status, v42*, the Revision Summary Sheet provides updated content. This at-a-glance overview of minor changes covers specific AAAHC Policies in the handbook. Please append this document to your handbook for easy reference.

On September 15, 2023, CMS released an updated memo to accreditation organizations titled *Revised Guidance on Unannounced Surveys, Blackout Dates, and Complaint Investigations*.

### **Blackout Dates**

According to the memo, facilities must always be “survey-ready” and therefore allowing facilities to request blackout dates (dates to be avoided in survey scheduling) is inconsistent with CMS’ survey expectations.

Effective October 13, 2023, AAAHC will no longer accept scheduling blackout dates. AAAHC will only conduct surveys when the organization is open for business and providing patient services. It is important to ensure your application information detailing days/hours when surgery/procedures are scheduled is accurate. Contact your Scheduling Coordinator if there are any changes.

This change supersedes the language on page 10 of *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status, v42* that states, “For most survey types, AAAHC schedules an organization’s survey date(s) with consideration for the organization’s blackout dates. An organization is allowed up to five blackout dates to be avoided in survey scheduling. AAAHC will also consider days on which surgeries and procedures are typically scheduled.”

Supporting our commitment to the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, AAAHC works continuously to improve our processes and systems to provide the most current information and guidance to our accredited organizations.

*Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status, v42*

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