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AAAHC v43 Handbooks Introduce New Standards Architecture
*Updates Focus on Standards of Care and Introduce New 1095 Engage
Accreditation Management System*

(Deerfield, Ill.) Jan. 3, 2024 – The [Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care \(AAAHC\)](https://www.aaahc-ac.org/) announces the release of its v43 Standards Handbooks for both Ambulatory Accreditation (AMB) and Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) accreditation today. These handbooks introduce and integrate into the updated Standard sets *1095 Engage*, AAAHC's new Accreditation Management System (AMS). These newly released handbooks will provide organizations with tools to continue to drive innovation, agility, and excellence in the ambulatory setting, reinforcing AAAHC's *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy.

New Standards Architecture Designed with Clients at the Forefront

The implementation of *1095 Engage* required Standards revisions and structural changes to enable Standards curation, thereby providing clients with AAAHC Standards specifically tailored to their unique organization. The v43 Standards are organized by Category, grouping similar concepts to facilitate organization compliance, streamline the onsite survey process, and minimize redundancy.

For ease of review and implementation, the handbooks contain a crosswalk identifying changes from the previous version.

Introduction of AMS to Enhance Internal Operations

Further, implementation of the *1095 Engage* AMS will empower health care organizations to pursue excellence by providing single-source operations solutions. The full suite of automatic guidance and resources included in the handbooks will enable providers to organize, and update required application/profile documentation throughout their accreditation term.

"This is a particularly significant update to our flagship Standards handbooks and is a result of lots of input from our accredited organizations and the hard work and collaboration of our subject matter experts, committees, Surveyors, and staff," said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. "The integration of our new Accreditation Management System specifically is a foundational change that will bring measurable value to our accredited organizations."

In addition to utilizing technological solutions to enhance patient documentation and internal workflows, updates in the v43 handbooks reflect realignment of Standards to minimize

redundancies and improve clarity of requirements across AAAHC programs. Designed to facilitate compliance, the v43 handbooks ensure providers have access to the highest quality Standards and resources in the industry.

“The Standards handbooks are comprehensive, but strategically designed to be very actionable for organizations as they evaluate their survey readiness and set quality improvement goals for their organization,” said David Shapiro, MD, Immediate Past Board Chair for AAAHC. “It’s an ideal time to make assessments and embark on quality improvement initiatives in the spirit of the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy.”

AAAHC will lead two v43 training webinars on Jan. 9 and 10, to increase awareness and help facilities align their survey preparation and ongoing compliance activities with the newly developed Standards. In the Jan. 9 webinar, our expert faculty will focus on AMB, and the Jan. 10 program will focus on MDS.

For additional information on the latest Standards updates as well as registering for v43 training webinars, please visit <https://www.aaahc.org/v43Standards>.

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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.