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AAAHC Publishes New Handbook for Advanced Orthopaedic Certification
New standards architecture, AMS, incorporated in v43 Handbook

(Deerfield, Ill.) Jan. 31, 2024 – The [Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care \(AAAHC\)](#) releases its *Certification Handbook for Advanced Orthopaedics (AOC)*, v43. Leveraging the previously released handbook updates to the Ambulatory Accreditation (AMB) and Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) accreditation programs, the new edition provides the most current information and guidance for surgery centers seeking to demonstrate their commitment to ongoing quality improvement and industry best practices in orthopaedic surgery.

The three-year specialty AOC program, originally launched in 2018, focuses on patient outcomes and aligns seamlessly with the AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation for Ambulatory or Medicare Deemed Status program. An expert panel of professionals in orthopaedic and complex spine procedures created the AOC program to provide a comprehensive focus on transitions of care from pre-assessment through discharge and rehabilitation. Organizations may seek certification for total joint, complex spine, or a combination of both services.

Like the latest v43 handbooks, the updates reflect and integrate *1095 Engage*, AAAHC's new Accreditation Management System (AMS) into the program with AOC Standards organized by Category, and each Category groups similar concepts to facilitate compliance.

"Ambulatory surgery organizations already accredited by AAAHC will realize additional benefits with the AAAHC AOC program," said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. "AOC elevates the status of organizations having a dedicated core team of clinicians with an expertise in orthopaedics. Through an assessment of evidence-based clinical practice Standards and guidelines, ultimately, the AOC program assesses an organizational infrastructure that promotes excellence"

Changes from previous Advanced Orthopaedic Certification Standards include guidance to support understanding of community needs assessment, as well as clarification of on-call physicians and examples of training hours. For ease of review and implementation, the v43 handbook contains a crosswalk identifying all changes from the previous versions.

"Committed to advancing health care, AAAHC remains dedicated to updating our resources with the latest industry best practices, ensuring organizations are prepared for surveys on a daily basis," said David Shapiro, MD, Immediate Past Board Chair for AAAHC. "Whether providers

are seeking accreditation to meet regulatory obligations or using it as a mechanism to enhance organizational performance and quality, the new handbooks feature expert-guided updates in our Standards, serving as a pertinent resource for your quality improvement journey.”

AAAHC is releasing an educational webinar entitled *Your Successful Transition to AAAHC v43 Standards* on February 5 that is specifically designed for organizations currently participating in the AAAHC Advanced Orthopaedic Certification program or those seeking this certification. The goals of this webinar are to increase awareness and help facilities align their survey preparation and ongoing compliance activities with the newly developed Standards. Standards included in v43 will take effect April 3.

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

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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, worksite 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.