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AAAHC Releases New Handbooks for Health Plan Accreditation Programs
New standards architecture, AMS, incorporated in v43 handbooks

(Deerfield, Ill.) Jan. 31, 2024 – The [Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care \(AAAHC\)](#) announces the publication of its v43 Standards Handbooks for Health Plans (HP) and Health Plans Federal Employee Health Benefit (HPFEHB) programs. These handbooks, which take effect April 3, include the most current guidelines for health plan administrators working to adopt or maintain quality and industry best practices for their plan members.

The latest v43 handbooks reflect and integrate *1095 Engage*, AAAHC’s new Accreditation Management System (AMS). Leveraging the infrastructure of the new AMS, the programs provide an efficient survey process and ongoing compliance monitoring. Standards are organized by Category, and each Category groups similar concepts to facilitate compliance.

“AAAHC has been serving the accreditation needs of health plan administrators for nearly 35 years. Our shared commitment to integrity and efficiency is reflected in these Standards,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “We take our own philosophy of *1,095 Strong, quality every day* quite seriously, ensuring constant improvement in the clarity and efficacy of our Standards.”

Changes from previous HP and HPFEHB Handbooks include the addition of five delegation Standards, clarification of member communication requirements, and the removal of “must fully meet” Standard guidance. For ease of review and implementation, the v43 handbooks contain a crosswalk identifying all changes from the previous versions.

“Health Plan accreditation takes a very methodical approach to evaluate and ensure that plans address case management and care coordination, as well as member rights, governance, and network adequacy,” said David Shapiro, MD, Immediate Past Board Chair for AAAHC. “Applying the Standards and earning accreditation help demonstrate to stakeholders an administration’s overall commitment to quality throughout the duration of the accreditation cycle.”

AAAHC will offer a recorded training webinar entitled, *Your Successful Transition to AAAHC v43 Standards*, on February 5 that is specifically designed for organizations currently participating in the AAAHC HP for HPFEHB accreditation programs or those seeking this accreditation. The goals of this webinar are both to increase awareness and help plan administrators align their survey preparation and ongoing compliance activities with the newly developed Standards.

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 HP and HPFEHB, visit <https://www.aaahc.org/accreditation/health-plans-fehb>.

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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.