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Contact: Kate Kremin  
L.C. Williams & Associates  
312-565-3900  
[kkremin@lcwa.com](mailto:kkremin@lcwa.com)

**AAAHC Addresses Challenges Related to Safe Injection Practices**  
Safe Injection Practices Toolkit offers best practices, protocols to mitigate risk

**(Deerfield, Ill.)** Dec 4, 2024 — The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) has released its updated *Safe Injection Practices Toolkit*, a resource that promotes a culture of safety for the prevention of sharps injuries through safe injection practices. The toolkit provides health care professionals with guidance that focuses on both patient and team safety, reducing the risk of bloodborne infections and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards from the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

AAAHC's *Safe Injection Practices Toolkit* serves as a guide to mitigate these risks by offering protocols for aseptic techniques, proper syringe and needle usage, and the handling of single and multi-dose vials. Through utilizing this toolkit, health care providers can strengthen their organizational policies and staff training to promote safe injection practices and foster a culture of safety. Continued monitoring of safe injection practices can be achieved through observational improvement opportunities, benchmarking studies, and continued educational opportunities.

"Patient and team safety are paramount at AAAHC. Our enhanced *Safe Injection Practices Toolkit* offers health care professionals a critical resource for reducing the risk of bloodborne infections and ensuring compliance with best practices in injection safety," said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. "With the prevalence of bacterial pathogens caused by unsafe injection practices, organizations are encouraged to use the '3 Steps to Safe Injection Practices' tool to identify where an organization may be deficient in their SIP process."

Despite existing regulatory guidelines, unsafe injection practices remain a significant concern. Unsafe injections have severe health risks, including hepatitis C (HCV), hepatitis B (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), bacterial and fungal infections, skin abscesses, nerve damage, and paralysis of the area around the injection site.

"Unsafe injection practices continue to pose significant risks to patients in ambulatory settings. This toolkit provides ambulatory care organizations with foundational principles of aseptic technique to benefit the health and safety of patients and health care providers," said Julie Lynch, director of the Institute for Quality Improvement at AAAHC. "Our commitment is to

provide a series of comprehensive resources that empower organizations in their efforts to ensure injection safety and quality care every day."

The *Safe Injection Practices Toolkit* and additional resources can be accessed online at [www.aaahc.org/SIP](http://www.aaahc.org/SIP).

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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 and specialized programs including Advanced Orthopaedic Certification and Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification demonstrate 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](http://www.aaahc.org).