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Contact: Kate Kremin
L.C. Williams & Associates
312-565-3900
kkremin@lcwa.com

AAAHC Seeks Stakeholder Input on Proposed v45 Standards Additions and Revisions
Updates address evolving ambulatory care delivery models, higher-acuity services, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI)

(Deerfield, Ill.) March 4, 2026 — The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) invites health care professionals, Surveyors, professional associations, and other stakeholders to review and provide feedback on proposed additions and revisions across all AAAHC programs. The public comment period opens March 4, 2026, and continues through April 2, 2026. This public comment process underscores AAAHC’s commitment to ensuring its Standards reflect current best practices while supporting high-quality, patient-centered care across ambulatory settings for surgical and primary care.

As AAAHC prepares for its proposed v45 Standards in 2026, this work reflects the integration of new tools that are now part of everyday operations. The revisions are designed to enhance patient safety, support consistent evaluation, and ensure practical application of Standards in real-world settings, with key areas of focus including category-based review, advancements in clinical practice and technology, and guidance for the responsible use of AI.

“Throughout the next 30 days, I encourage you to review the proposed v45 changes and participate in public comment,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “Public comment matters. We welcome input from across the field because strong Standards are built through shared expertise, not closed rooms.”

The v45 Standards also emphasize AAAHC’s commitment to patient-centered care and the organization’s *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, which drives quality improvement initiatives across the ambulatory health care landscape. By aligning Standards with current clinical practice and emerging technologies, AAAHC helps organizations deliver care that meets both patient needs and evolving regulatory expectations.

One of the most substantive proposed additions of v45 Standards is addressing AI in ambulatory care. These proposed Standards focus on foundational principles of safe AI use, including transparency and explainability, validation and accuracy, data security and privacy, human oversight, fitness for purpose, and fairness and bias mitigation.

The expectations are designed to be surveyable—clear, feasible, and measurable allowing both accredited organizations and AAAHC Surveyors to evaluate survey readiness consistently, without adding unnecessary administrative burden.

“Our Standards development process is grounded in AAAHC’s mission to improve health care quality,” said Deborah Edelman, MPH, senior director, standards compliance and development, clinical support of AAAHC. “The proposed v45 additions and updates reflect thoughtful consideration of innovation, accountability, and patient safety, and we encourage stakeholders to share their perspectives during the public comment period.”

Health care professionals, Surveyors, professional associations, and other stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed v45 Standards additions and revisions and submit feedback. AAAHC also urges participants to share this opportunity with colleagues and professional networks to ensure broad and diverse input.

To review the proposed v45 Standards additions and updates and submit feedback through the public comment form, please visit www.aaahc.org/v45StandardsPublicComment.

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About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,800 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.