AAAHC Offers Educational Resources on Emergency Drills
Webinar & Updated Toolkit Focus on Best Practices for Preparedness

(Skokie, Ill.) August 27, 2018 – Many different types of emergencies can occur in a health care setting – and facilities need to be prepared to handle all of them. Whether the emergency is related to medical demands, inclement weather, or security threats, organizations should create a crisis plan and practice key strategies before an actual disaster hits. To educate ambulatory health care organizations on how to run and evaluate emergency drills, AAAHC updated its Emergency Drills patient safety toolkit and is hosting a webinar to discuss important steps for preparedness. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 18, from noon-1 p.m. CDT.

Emergency drills or simulations are vital to emergency preparedness in the ambulatory setting. Research shows that simulation of emergency situations can effectively prepare organizations for a variety of emergencies including patient falls, fire, power loss, weather issues, or bioterrorism. Recent AAAHC survey data, however, revealed more than 10 percent of organizations still struggle to comply with AAAHC Standards/CMS Conditions for Coverage related to emergency preparedness.

“The emergency drills webinar and updated toolkit will offer evidence-based recommendations for designing, implementing, and evaluating emergency drills to help organizations strengthen their preparedness strategies and meet standards compliance,” said Kris Kilgore, RN, BSN, administrative director of Grand Rapids Ophthalmology Surgical Care Center, member of the AAAHC Institute Advisory Committee and AAAHC surveyor. “Checklists, mock emergency drills, and other exercises allow organizations to assess emergency action plans as well as teams’ readiness to respond to real crises. It is important to involve all staff in these exercises, as teamwork during simulations may help reduce errors and ensure better results when actual emergencies strike.”

6 Steps to Preparedness
In the upcoming webinar, Kilgore will discuss the key elements to emergency drills that will help organizations prepare for the worst, including:

1. Assess the internal emergency and disaster preparedness plan
2. Plan for the emergency drill
3. Inform all participants that the drill will be happening
4. Perform the drill as if it were a real-life emergency
5. Evaluate the performance of all team members at the completion of the drill
6. Create and implement a corrective action plan as relevant
During the evaluation process, it is important to document all steps and identify areas of weakness that need improvements to meet specific standard requirements and boost overall efficiency. The AAAHC *Emergency Drills* toolkit provides organizations with a sample checklist and timeline they can use to measure performance throughout the drill.

To register for the AAAHC *Emergency Drills* webinar on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, from noon-1 p.m. CDT, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org) and select “2018 webinar offerings” under “I Want To.” To purchase the revised *Emergency Drills* toolkit, visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org) and select “Order patient safety toolkits” under “I Want To.” For more information on other AAAHC resources or accreditation programs, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).

### About AAAHC
AAAHC (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care), founded in 1979, is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation with more than 6,000 organizations accredited. AAAHC accredits 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 health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized Standards. The non-profit provides a survey experience founded on a collaborative, consultative, educational approach to peer-based, on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization’s commitment to provide safe, high quality services to its patients. It is recognized by third party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public.

For more information, visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).

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