



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **AAAHC Report Identifies Areas of Compliance and Opportunities for Improvement** *Quality Roadmap Highlights Findings in Quality Improvement, Credentialing and Privileging, Documentation, and Safe Injection Practices*

(Skokie, Ill.) September 23, 2019 – AAAHC recently released its *Quality Roadmap 2019* report, which includes analyses of data from more than 1,200 accreditation surveys conducted in 2018. The report identifies areas of high and low compliance, providing expert insight into how ambulatory health care organizations can improve their performance and quality of care. The most common deficiencies centered on quality improvement studies, infection prevention/safe injection practices, credentialing and privileging, as well as documentation management.

“We designed the *Quality Roadmap* to help organizations identify themes that deserve special attention when pursuing ongoing quality improvement throughout the accreditation cycle,” said Noel Adachi, president and CEO of AAAHC. “Using this report, along with our growing portfolio of educational programs and resources, organizations can integrate best practices to help them excel through all 1,095 days of an accreditation term.”

The *AAAHC Quality Roadmap 2019* examined organizations’ compliance ratings for current AAAHC Standards during 1,299 onsite surveys from March 1–December 31, 2018. The types of organizations surveyed include ambulatory surgery centers (ASC), office-based surgery practices (OBS) and primary care (PC) settings.

#### **Findings on High-Deficiency Standards**

The report indicates that the top deficiencies cited in more than 10 percent of survey ratings were consistent with themes identified in the 2018 results, including quality improvement studies, credentialing and privileging, documentation, and safe injection practices.

#### **Findings on High-Compliance Standards**

AAAHC’s analysis also found accredited organizations have shown improvement in key areas broken down by Non-Medicare and Medicare Deemed Status Standards, including:

##### *Non-Medicare Deemed Status Standards*

- Engaging patients in care decisions
- Training staff in emergency equipment and safe evacuation plans
- Identifying opportunities for quality improvement studies
- Providing ongoing staff development and improvement

##### *Medicare Deemed Status Standards*

- Ensuring the appropriate providers and equipment are available when treating patients
- Educating staff on new devices or products used for patient care
- Complying with state and local building codes and regulations

“The *Quality Roadmap* presents actionable data that can be used to help ambulatory providers develop stronger policies, procedures and practices. These, in turn, will help to build a quality improvement culture that is integrated into day-to-day operations, building off the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy,” said Naomi Kuznets, Ph.D., AAAHC Institute vice president and senior director. “Organizations are encouraged to share and discuss the report’s findings with their teams to drive collaboration and decision making focused on quality improvement and other corrective actions.”

The *AAAHC Quality Roadmap 2019* is available for download at <https://www.aaahc.org/quality/aaahc-quality-roadmap/>

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### **About AAAHC**

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 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 on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization’s commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. It is recognized by third-party payers, 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).