



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**AAAHC Publishes New Resource for Pain Management**  
*Toolkit Offers Guidance on Assessment, Best Practices*

**(Skokie, Ill.)** March 10, 2020 – The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) has released a new Pain Management Toolkit, offering providers guidance on acute and chronic pain treatment. As pain management has evolved over the last couple of decades, AAAHC has created this toolkit to provide information to health care providers serving the millions of U.S. adults facing chronic or acute pain.

Chronic pain is the number one cause of long-term disability<sup>1</sup>, and reports indicate that more than 80% of post-operative patients do not have adequate acute pain management<sup>2</sup>, rendering thorough and standard assessment of pain management strategies vitally important in the health care continuum.

The Pain Management Toolkit provides organizations with current information and tools to educate staff, achieve consistent, standardized processes, and consider key issues which may help in making decisions about managing patient pain. The toolkit emphasizes important issues associated with care transitions for surgical and primary care environments, highlighting the prevalence of opioid prescriptions and outlining nationally recommended actions for both opioids and their alternatives.

Covering both the management of chronic pain and acute surgical- or procedural-related pain and post-operative pain management, the toolkit can be used to help drive quality improvement in both surgical and primary care practices.

“The content stresses that the primary aim of pain management is to improve physical function, while allowing rehabilitation and maintaining patient comfort. It is not about achieving a specific pain score,” said Naomi Kuznets, PhD, vice president and senior director of the AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement.

“Our toolkits and other educational offerings assist organizations with developing best practices and improving patient outcomes,” said Renee Greenfeld, MBA, senior vice president of marketing and business development for AAAHC. “All of our toolkits underscore the many ways AAAHC works with accredited organizations to help them be *1095 Strong, quality every day*, for the 1,095 days of the accreditation term.”

To order the new Pain Management toolkit, visit: <https://www.aaahc.org/quality/patient-safety-toolkits/>.

## 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).

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<sup>1</sup>National Institutes of Health. Pain Management. RePORT. <https://report.nih.gov/nihfactsheets/viewfactsheet.aspx?csid=57>. Accessed May 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Gan TJ. Poorly controlled postoperative pain: prevalence, consequences, and prevention. *J Pain Res.* 2017; 10: 2287–2298. Published online 2017 Sep 25. doi: 10.2147/JPR.S144066. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5626380/>. Accessed May 2019.