



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**AAAHC Shares Alignment of Standards with New Industry  
Recommendations for Infection Prevention When Performing Necessary Surgeries**  
*During COVID-19 Pandemic, ASCs Advised to Develop,  
Implement and Evaluate Emergency Preparedness Processes*

**(Skokie, Ill.)** April 22, 2020 – In conjunction with the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA), the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) is encouraging its accredited ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) to follow new guidance intended to further protect patients, families, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, ASCA released 10 recommendations for ASCs performing necessary surgeries at this time, and AAAHC has published a new tool to aid health care facilities with identification, isolation, and information sharing measures.

Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the ASCA recommendations and their alignment with AAAHC Standards reinforce pre-screening measures, social distancing, appropriate personal protective equipment use and treatment, and post-operative screening to assess any COVID-19-related symptoms.

“The joint guidance aids our accredited surgery centers by providing clear, actionable methods to limit the spread of infection,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “By aligning AAAHC Standards with the recommendations from ASCA, we are helping our clients perform necessary gap analyses and keep quality of care top of mind.”

The newly released information complements previous educational presentations by AAAHC, including recent webinars and other online resources related to the COVID-19 health crisis.

“Our collective efforts are focused on limiting the spread of COVID-19 while helping surgery centers maintain safe operations when performing necessary procedures,” said William Prentice, chief executive officer of ASCA. “AAAHC has taken an important step in stressing alignment of industry guidance with established and comprehensive standards related to delivery of care and patient and provider safety.”

“Infection prevention and control efforts demonstrate commitment to the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, and they are now more meaningful than ever,” said Adachi.

To access this new guidance and other resources to support infection prevention efforts, visit [www.ascassociation.org/covid-19-message](http://www.ascassociation.org/covid-19-message) or [www.aaahc.org/covid-19](http://www.aaahc.org/covid-19).

## **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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