



ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION
for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.

Dear Colleagues,

As the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves, we recognize and applaud the efforts you are making to care for patients and the community. AAAHC supports these efforts by providing the latest information and guidance to promote ongoing compliance. For organizations participating in the AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status Accreditation Program, we have some updates to share.

In December 2019 and January 2020, CMS released revisions to the Conditions for Coverage (CFCs) for ambulatory surgery centers. For these types of revisions, AAAHC is required to notify CMS of how we will ensure that our Standards continue to meet or exceed the CFC requirements and obtain CMS approval of our plans prior to implementation.

Recently, AAAHC received CMS approval of our implementation plans. For your convenience, we developed a brief summary outlining the changes and effective date after which these revised Standards will be integrated into AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status surveys. To review the addendum, please click [here](#).

What you need to know

- Revisions discussed in the addendum are effective for AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status surveys conducted on or after April 13, 2020.
- AAAHC has postponed non-emergency surveys for all MDS and non-MDS programs until after May 1, 2020.
- If your organization requires a high priority *emergency survey* for the MDS program, AAAHC will survey these CFC revisions for surveys with a start date on or after April 13, 2020. Emergency surveys include:
 - All discretionary surveys that address: immediate jeopardy complaints (i.e., cases that represent a situation in which entity noncompliance has placed the health and safety of recipients in its care at risk for serious injury, serious harm, serious impairment or death or harm) and allegations of abuse and neglect, and complaints alleging infection control concerns, including organizations with potential COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses.
 - Initial/Initial MDS or Reccreditation/Initial MDS surveys, if seeking a CCN
 - All MDS Early Option Surveys (EOS)
 - MDS reccreditation surveys of organizations that have a history of Immediate Jeopardy related to infection control
- With a few exceptions, all accredited organizations will remain accredited regardless of anniversary/expiration date during this period. Once normal operations resume across the country, AAAHC will schedule surveys through a “catch-up” process.
- For service scope changes including temporary closures, suspension and expansion of services directly associated with COVID-19, requirements for submission of the AAAHC Change Notification is waived until further notice.
- For all facilities, if your primary contact changes during this time, email AAAHC at notify@aaahc.org. We want to make sure we can reach you.
- Organizations with a pending survey or who are within 14 days of a completed survey must notify AAAHC of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case as soon as possible by contacting AAAHC at 847.324.7485.

We support your efforts to improve the quality of health care through our Standards and survey process, our education offerings, and our *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy. We will continue to keep you apprised of any changes to the current regulations and our policies which may impact your accreditation.

For more information, please contact 847.853.6060 or info@aaahc.org.

Sincerely,
The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care