

AAAHC has implemented the transformational *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, a call-to-action that equips ambulatory leaders with the best of what they need to operationalize quality practices. The *1095 Strong* initiative centers on providing accreditation tools, resources, and relevant education to bring meaningful value to organizations and promote compliance with the Standards, all 1,095 days of the accreditation term.

For more than 40 years, AAAHC has provided facilities with relevant Standards and education for improvement of their patient care environment and have updated Standards regularly to reflect proven developments in medicine, technology, and specialty practice. AAAHC is proud to announce the publication of the *Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status* released as version 41. The new version of Standards will apply to all organizations seeking Medicare Deemed Status (MDS) accreditation with AAAHC and is the outcome of valuable feedback from our Standards Development Committee, client organizations, surveyors, partners, and staff.

Question	Response
<p>1. What is new in this version of the Standards (v41)?</p>	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 provides a seamless transition for quality improvement efforts and features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More concise language and improved clarity on Standards flagged as confusing • More consistent, organized format that better balances the Standards • Less repetition; we’ve deleted redundant Standards across chapters • Addition of new Standards that reflect current best practices and regulatory requirements • New Scoring/Rating Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes scoring alignment between the Non-Deemed / Deemed Status programs. • Complimentary electronic PDF version available to all currently accredited organizations or those in the process of becoming accredited
<p>2. How do I learn more about the Standards?</p>	<p>On August 26, AAAHC presented a complimentary educational webinar, <i>Moving Forward with Enhanced v41 Standards</i>. The webinar describes how this new release will enhance your MDS quality improvements efforts.</p> <p>To view the webinar and supporting resources, please click here.</p> <p>At the <i>Achieving Accreditation 2020</i> virtual conference on September 14-17, participants will have an opportunity to connect with AAAHC surveyors and staff, learn more about the specific MDS v41 enhancements, and have their questions addressed about other changes AAAHC has implemented to provide guidance on specific COVID-19 considerations as clients resume onsite patient care.</p>
<p>3. When will the new handbook version be released?</p>	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 handbook was released on Tuesday, September 1, 2020.</p>

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<p>4. Where can I get a copy of the handbook?</p>	<p>To further support the <i>1095 Strong, quality every day</i> philosophy and support AAAHC accredited organizations provide high-quality care all 1,095 days of their accreditation cycle, electronic copies of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 will be available for download to all accredited organizations. If you are an AAAHC accredited organization and did not receive an email notification of this release, please contact AAAHC at info@aaahc.org or 847.853.6060.</p> <p>Others interested in purchasing a copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 can place an order here.</p>
<p>5. I just purchased the 2018 handbook. Can I receive a refund?</p>	<p><i>All handbook sales are final.</i> However, if a client purchased the handbook on or after March 1, 2020, you are eligible to receive a free copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v41 or <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 (whichever program was already purchased), when available. To receive your complimentary copy, contact AAAHC at info@aaahc.org or 847.853.6060.</p>
<p>6. I'm currently accredited, do I get a free copy of v41? How do I access it?</p>	<p>On September 1, all accredited organizations in MDS AAAHC accreditation program received an email blast - "AAAHC Releases Enhanced Standards" with retrieval instructions. If you are unable to locate this notification, please contact info@aaahc.org or 847.853.6060 to gain access to a complimentary electronic PDF version of the handbook.</p>
<p>7. How do I know which handbook applies to me?</p>	<p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 is designed for ambulatory surgery centers seeking AAAHC accreditation that participate in the AAAHC Medicare Deemed Status program or those that are seeking an initial AAAHC/Medicare Deemed Status survey. This handbook includes policies and procedures relevant to Medicare Deemed Status Surveys.</p> <p>The <i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v41 is designed for ambulatory health care organizations seeking AAAHC accreditation that do not participate in the Medicare Deemed Status program. This handbook was released July 1, 2020 and AAAHC sent an email blast to all current program participants with instructions on how to access the updated Standards.</p> <p>Contact AAAHC at info@aaahc.org or 847.853.6060 to determine which program may best fit your needs or the program in which you are currently enrolled.</p>

Question	Response
<p>8. When do the new (v41) standards become effective?</p>	<p>For both the MDS and non-MDS accreditation programs, the effective date of version 41 is November 1, 2020.</p> <p>AAAHC will survey all organizations with an accreditation anniversary/expiration date on or after November 1, 2020 against this set of Standards, including if an organization’s survey is scheduled before November 1st as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDS Surveys: on and after October 1, 2020 • Non-MDS Surveys: on and after September 1, 2020 <p>In either scenario, AAAHC accreditation surveys completed prior to September 1, 2020 will use the current version of the AAAHC handbook Standards—not v41.</p>
<p>9. If my anniversary is in August but my survey is scheduled for December, will the new Standards still apply to my survey?</p>	<p>Organizations with an anniversary/expiration date prior to November 1, 2020, but scheduled for a survey on or after November 1, 2020 due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will also be accountable for compliance with v41.</p>
<p>10. My organization’s expiration/anniversary date is in July but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are not able to be surveyed until November. Against which version will my survey be conducted?</p>	<p>Organizations with an accreditation anniversary/expiration date prior to November 1, 2020 but scheduled for a survey on or after November 1, 2020 due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will also be held accountable for compliance with v41.</p>
<p>11. If my organization’s expiration/anniversary date is in September, and we have a survey scheduled in October, can we choose to be surveyed using the v41 Standards?</p>	<p>Yes, organizations will be provided the option to be surveyed against the v41 Standards earlier than November 1, 2020, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDS Surveys on and after October 1, 2020. • Non-MDS Surveys on and after September 1, 2020. <p>In consultation with the AAAHC Accreditation Services team during the application and scheduling process, organizations will be able to determine which version of the Standards apply.</p> <p>All organizations are expected to be in compliance with v41 after November 1, 2020, regardless of their expiration/anniversary date.</p>
<p>12. How does v41 impact an organization that is due for an interim survey in December?</p>	<p>Regardless of expiration/anniversary date, all organizations are expected to be in compliance with v41 after November 1, 2020. This includes any interim or other mid-cycle surveys that may be conducted after that date.</p>
<p>13. Is AAAHC providing a crosswalk between v41 and the current version of Standards?</p>	<p>Yes. For ease of review and implementation, each AAAHC handbook contains a crosswalk identifying substantive changes from the previous version.</p>

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<p>14. Is the hard copy of v41 available for order? If not, when?</p>	<p>All AAAHC accredited organizations in the Deemed Status program will receive a complimentary electronic pdf of <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41. Hard copies will be available for purchase on the website starting September 7. However, copies will not ship until after October 1, 2020.</p> <p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41, place an order here.</p>												
<p>15. What is the earliest date that an organization can be surveyed against v41?</p>	<p>The earliest date an organization can be surveyed against <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41 Standards is October 1, 2020 or</p> <p><i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>, v41 Standards is September 1, 2020.</p> <p>Regardless of expiration/anniversary date, all organizations are expected to be in compliance with v41 after November 1, 2020. This includes any interim or other mid-cycle surveys that may be conducted after that date.</p>												
<p>16. What is the handbook price? Is there a different price for PDF vs. hard copy?</p>	<p>The price for the electronic and hard copy version of the handbooks is the same, but additional fees are charged to cover shipping costs.</p> <p>If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>, v41, place an order here</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="610 1129 1510 1302"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="610 1129 1013 1163">v41 Handbook</th> <th data-bbox="1013 1129 1192 1163">Hard copy</th> <th data-bbox="1192 1129 1305 1163">PDF</th> <th data-bbox="1305 1129 1510 1163">Combo</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 1163 1013 1234"><i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i></td> <td data-bbox="1013 1163 1192 1234">\$425 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1192 1163 1305 1234">\$425</td> <td data-bbox="1305 1163 1510 1234">\$480 plus shipping</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="610 1234 1013 1302"><i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i></td> <td data-bbox="1013 1234 1192 1302">\$315 plus shipping</td> <td data-bbox="1192 1234 1305 1302">\$315</td> <td data-bbox="1305 1234 1510 1302">\$380 plus shipping</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	v41 Handbook	Hard copy	PDF	Combo	<i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i>	\$425 plus shipping	\$425	\$480 plus shipping	<i>Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care</i>	\$315 plus shipping	\$315	\$380 plus shipping
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<p>17. Is an “addendum” available that explains the changes to the Standards vs. the current version?</p>	<p>No, AAAHC is not preparing an addendum. The v41 handbooks do include an easy-to-use crosswalk in the resource section of the Handbook that highlights the differences between v41 and the current handbook that outlines the changes incorporated.</p>												
<p>18. Are updates to the Health Plans, Advanced Orthopaedic Certification or PCMH programs available?</p>	<p>Later this year, AAAHC plans to publish updates to the Health Plans programs Standards. AAAHC does not plan to update the Advanced Orthopaedic Certification or PCMH handbooks in 2020.</p>												
<p>19. What substantive Standard changes are included in v41?</p>	<p>On August 26, AAAHC presented a complimentary educational webinar, <i>Moving Forward with Enhanced v41 MDS Standards</i>. The webinar describes how this new release will enhance your MDS quality improvements efforts.</p> <p>To view the webinar and supporting resources, please click here.</p>												

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20. Are any other changes included in v41?	Yes, most notably, the <i>Accreditation Handbook for Medicare Deemed Status</i> v41 includes revised rating methodology for AAAHC Standards. These revisions were made to provide enhanced ratings transparency for easier survey self-assessment. This scoring methodology provides consistency across all AAAHC accreditation programs.
21. How do I learn about the new rating methodology utilized in the MDS v41 Handbook?	<p>For ease of review and implementation, the AAAHC MDS handbook contains a “Revised Rating Methodology for AAAHC Standards” resource page.</p> <p>On August 26, AAAHC presented a complimentary educational webinar, <i>Moving Forward with Enhanced v41 MDS Standards</i>. The webinar describes how this new release will enhance your MDS quality improvements efforts.</p> <p>To view the webinar and supporting resources, please click here.</p>