



ACCREDITATION
ASSOCIATION
for AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE, INC.

CONNECTION

February, 2011

2011 Publications Shipping Soon

The 2011 *Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care* and 2011 *Accreditation Handbook Including Medicare Requirements for Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs)* will begin shipping from the AAAHC headquarters the week of March 1, 2011. Orders are filled in the order they come in, so AAAHC recommends pre-ordering your publications as soon as possible. For more information on the 2011 publications and to order, please visit www.aaahc.org and click the 'publications' tab.



More AAAHC International Accreditations

AAAHC International is pleased to announce the accreditations of [Hospital Clinica Metropolitana](#), a multi-specialty ambulatory health care clinic, and [Luis Kaver Clinical Dental](#), a cosmetic dental clinic, both located in San Jose, Costa Rica. AAAHC International, a subsidiary of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, was founded in 2010 to provide accreditation services to organizations abroad.



AAAHC First to Offer On-site Medical Home Certification

As an alternative to accreditation, AAAHC now offers Medical Home On-site Certification. *The Medical Home On-site Certification Handbook* can assist organizations in their efforts to prepare for a certification survey; the Handbook contains the applicable standards relevant to the certification survey.



The certification program varies from that of AAAHC Accreditation. A certification survey consists of a pre-conference call between an

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Join AAAHC at the following Achieving Accreditation Educational Sessions This Year

Miami, FL

March 18-19, 2011
Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay

San Diego, CA

June 10-11, 2011
San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina

Boston, MA

Sept. 23-24, 2011
Seaport Boston

Las Vegas, NV

December 2-3, 2011
Bellagio

Stop by the AAAHC Booth this Spring!

AAAHC staff will be at the following conferences:

Washington, D.C.

AHIP National Policy Forum
March 8-9, 2011

Philadelphia, PA

Medical Home Summit
March 14-16, 2011

Washington, D.C.

NACHC Policy and Issues Forum
March 24-27, 2011

Chicago, IL

Urgent Care Association of America
May 10-13, 2011

organization and an assigned surveyor; followed by a one-day on-site review by the surveyor.

AAHC will continue to work with organizations to arrange a convenient date/time for the pre-conference call, as well as an agreed-upon date for the on-site review. Organizations interested in pursuing certification should complete the Medical Home On-site Certification Application for Survey; which can be found on the AAHC web site. www.aaahc.org.

Ask the Expert

Q. When preparing for my AAHC/Medicare deemed status survey, do I need to hire contractors to help me complete the Physical Environment Checklist (PEC) and the attestations?

A. The deemed status survey process is predicated on organizations being primarily responsible for their facility's compliance with applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The AAHC Physical Environment Checklist (PEC) was written to enable an organization to effectively verify that design and construction professionals who worked on their facilities applied and conformed to the NFPA standards. While CMS has accepted this approach, the AAHC is nonetheless required to validate each organization's good faith effort in determining its compliance hence the wording of the introductory section of the PEC, and the requirement that surveyors randomly check a variety of PEC items with each survey.



The introductory section of the PEC identifies four categories of regulatory focus in the PEC, and asks for descriptions of the qualifications of the personnel who completed each section of the document. However, the PEC never defines what those qualifications must or should be. The intent is simply that whoever answers each question should understand its meaning; and that the subject matter tends to fall into four categories that may or may not require different people to meaningfully assess each of them.

Most items in the PEC are narrative compilations of the most easily understood, and freely visible, manifestations of compliance with far more complex technical issues. As such, expertise in design or engineering of ASCs should not be required. What is necessary are individuals able to carefully read each given item, and truly/critically evaluate the particular aspect of the given facility. The greatest challenge is to not jump to the desired conclusion, such as: "It wasn't a problem last time," or "We hired experts to design it," or "Prior surveyors didn't say it was a problem . . . so it *MUST* be right;" but instead determine if the facility demonstrates what the PEC item describes (just like a surveyor will do).

The PEC enables organizations to double-check for themselves the work of those involved with the design, construction and/or maintenance of their facility. It is entirely possible that the best people for the job are those working in the facility every day, as they routinely deal with the operational aspects of the facility and train for emergency preparedness.

— Answered by Bill Lindeman

Orlando, FL
ASC Association
May 11-14, 2011

Del Ray Beach, FL
NACHC Farm Workers Conference
May 11-13, 2011

Phoenix, AZ
American College Health Association
May 31-June 4, 2011

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Register Today for AAAHC Institute Reports

The AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement is now accepting registrations for the 2011 *Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion*, *Colonoscopy*, *Knee Arthroscopy*, and *Pain Management: Low Back Injection* studies. In these studies you will have the opportunity to gather information on procedure times, processes of care, and patient outcomes. Benchmark data are provided on procedure times, as well as guidance from "best performers." For more information or to register for each of these studies please visit the AAAHC Institute website, www.aaahciqi.org, and choose "Studies Information" from the menu in green at the left.



The AAAHC Institute is also offering the *My QI* educational workshop, March 19th (1:30-4:30 pm), in Miami, in coordination with the AAAHC Achieving Accreditation educational session. Experienced faculty guide small work groups, structured by practice-settings, through development of potential quality improvement (QI) topics and the AAAHC "10 elements" of QI. The workshop focuses on basic issues including understanding how and why choices are made in QI activity development, implementation, and reporting. For more information or to register, visit the AAAHC Institute's website, www.aaahciqi.org, and choose "My QI Workshop" from the menu in green at the left.

The AAAHC Institute has released the results for the January-July 2010 *Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion*, *Colonoscopy*, *Knee Arthroscopy*, and *Pain Management: Low Back Injection* study reports and anticipates that the July-December 2010 *Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion*, *Colonoscopy*, *Knee Arthroscopy*, and *Pain Management: Low Back Injection* study reports will be available for purchase shortly. These reports include detailed information on processes of care, procedure times, and patient outcomes. The information is bulleted and easy to read, with graphs and tables that provide information at-a-glance. To learn more or order copies of the Institute study reports, visit the AAAHC Institute website, www.aaahciqi.org, and choose "Order Products" from the menu in green.

Resources

Becker's launches new E-Weekly

Becker's ASC Review has launched a new, free E-Weekly focusing on clinical quality, infection control, patient safety and accreditation. [To subscribe, click here.](#)



Free Educational Sessions for Texas Based Organizations

APIC and the Texas Department of State Health have partnered together to produce one-day sessions on the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The NHSN is a voluntary, secure, internet-based surveillance system that integrates patient and healthcare personnel

safety surveillance systems. The focus of the NHSN training program is to assist Texas healthcare professionals in learning to operate and enter data into the NHSN database. This way information regarding healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in ambulatory surgical centers and hospitals (including pediatric and adolescent hospitals) are properly entered and tracked in the database. Courses are funded by the Texas Department of Health and are being held on various dates in the next couple months throughout the state. [Visit here for additional information and to register.](#)

If you have questions or comments, please contact Alison Solway at asolway@aaahc.org.

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