



CONNECTION

Welcome to the new and revised AAAHC Connection. We are pleased to bring you this re-vamped e-newsletter with a new design, new information, and a new look. For questions or comments on the new Connection, please contact Alison Solway, editor, at asolway@aaahc.org.

2009 Publications now available!

The 2009 *Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care* is available for sale at www.aaahc.org.

Three new chapters, Behavioral Health, Lithotripsy Services, and Medical Home, have been added to the adjunct chapters for 2009. As is the case with all adjunct standards, these chapters only apply to organizations providing these types of services. In addition to the three new chapters, there have been edits throughout the entire book. To ensure that accredited organizations stay up-to-date on AAAHC and to begin preparing for their next resurvey, we recommend that all AAAHC accredited organizations purchase the updated edition.



The 2009 *Self-Assessment Manual* and the 2009 *Guidebook for Office-Based Surgery* are both available for pre-sale and will be ready to ship in early March.

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Upcoming Educational Opportunities!

The AAAHC Achieving Accreditation educational programs are an in-depth and interactive way to learn more about the accreditation process. For more information, please [visit here](#) or email education@aaahc.org.

Upcoming dates/locations:

- March 6-7, 2009
Atlanta, GA
- June 12-13, 2009
San Francisco, CA
- September 11-12, 2009
Chicago/Rosemont, IL
- December 4-5, 2009
Las Vegas, NV

Thinking of ways to give back? Become a surveyor!

At the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC/Accreditation Association), our team of surveyors is the key to our unique, peer-based accreditation process. Our survey model is one of consultation and collaboration, and we strive to match surveyors' qualifications and experience with the type of organization seeking accreditation.



The AAAHC accredits more than 4,000 facilities, making us the nation's leading ambulatory health care accrediting body. As the number of AAAHC-accredited ambulatory centers grows, the need for qualified professionals to join our survey team also grows. We're looking for qualified professionals — physicians, registered nurses, administrators, dentists and others — who have first-hand experience with ambulatory health care organizations.

For more information on becoming a surveyor, please contact Julie Haugh at jhaugh@aaahc.org.

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APRN-run Ambulatory Organizations Now Eligible for Accreditation!

Starting this year, AAAHC offers accreditation to organizations run by advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) in states where they can practice independently of physician supervision. This change to the AAAHC eligibility criteria was made to service the growing number of rural clinics, college health centers, Indian health clinics and other organizations supervised by APRNs. There are roughly 145,000 APRNs in the U.S. who, since 2007 have been able to practice without physician oversight in Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia.



Ask the Expert

In our medical gases storage room, do all of the tanks need to be chained (or secured) to the wall individually, or can several of them be secured together with one chain to the wall?

For compliance with CMS regulations for organizations that undergo a Medicare Deemed



status survey through AAAHC, medical gases are to be individually chained. This is not simply a recommendation. According to The 2008 Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care , Accreditation Policies and Procedures, page 13, AAAHC goes by NFPA 101 LSC, 2000 Edition, adopted in 2003. Per this edition on page 151, Regulation 18.3.2.4 states: " Medical Gas- Medical Gas storage and administration areas shall be protected in accordance with NFPA 99, Standard for Health Care Facilities". NFPA 99, 1999 edition states:

*4-3.1.1.1 Cylinder and Container Management.
Cylinders in service and in storage shall be individually secured and located to prevent falling or being knocked over.*

-- Answered by Sheryl Walker, MD, AAAHC Surveyor

IQI Corner: 2008 benchmark reports released

2008 Clinical Cataract and Colonoscopy Study Reports

The AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement has released two new clinical performance measurement and benchmarking study reports:

- *2008 Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion*
- *2008 Colonoscopy*



The study reports include information on organizational practices, processes of care, procedure times, intra-operative complications, and patient outcomes. The reports are available in PDF and CD-ROM formats; if you would like to purchase either of these, please visit www.aaahciqi.org. It is anticipated that the clinical 2008 Knee Arthroscopy with Meniscectomy study report will also be available shortly.

If you are interested in participating in the benchmarking studies in 2009, the registrations will begin in late spring. The Institute will send invitations to previous participants via email. Please contact Anita Kneifel, Assistant Director of the Institute at akneifel@aaahc.org, if you are interested, but have not participated previously.

If you have questions, comments or want to share your surveyor experiences with us, contact Alison Solway at asolway@aaahc.org.

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