



May, 2009

CONNECTION

Welcome to the second edition of the new-look AAAHC Connection. For questions or comments on the new Connection, please contact Alison Solway, editor, at asolway@aaaahc.org.

Red Flags Rule

On April 28, 2009, the Accreditation Association sent out a notice to all accredited organizations regarding the new FTC Red Flags Rule. This rule requires many businesses and organizations to implement a written Identity Theft Program designed to detect the warning signs of identify theft and take steps to prevent crime and mitigate the damage it inflicts. This rule may affect health care providers because the expansive definition contains terms like "creditors" and "covered accounts."



A healthcare provider may be deemed a "creditor" if it "regularly" accepts alternatives to payment in full on the date of service. If your organization qualifies as a creditor, you must next determine whether you maintain any "covered accounts," i.e. any account designed to permit multiple payments, as well as any other accounts that involved a reasonably foreseeable risk of identity theft. Fines will be distributed to organizations not in compliance.

Originally, the law was to be enforced beginning May 1, 2009. On

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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 [click here](#) or email education@aaaahc.org.

Upcoming dates/locations:

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

AAAHC Contact Information

April 30, 2009, the FTC announced that it would delay enforcement of the Red Flags Rule until August 1, 2009, to give creditors and financial institutions more time to develop and implement their identity theft programs. The delay also gives "Congress time to consider the issue further."

AAAHC recommends that accredited organizations potentially affected by this rule consult legal counsel or refer to the FTC guide for businesses, "[Fighting Fraud With the Red Flags Rule: A How-To Guide for Business.](#)"

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We Want You!

AAAHC is always looking for new people to join our talented pool of surveyors. While the need for surveyors often varies based on medical specialty and professional role within the organization (doctor, administrator, nurse, etc.), all interested parties are encouraged to apply.



Surveyors not only assess how a center meets prevailing standards during the on-site survey, but have the ability to influence the evolution of the accreditation process. Surveyors must be practicing healthcare professionals (physicians, dentists, podiatrists, pharmacists, nurses, and administrators) employed or privileged by an accredited organization. Retired candidates, demonstrating continued activity in the profession, are also eligible with applicable references.

Potential applicants must attend a weekend-long training seminar initially, and must be re-trained every 2 years. The minimum commitment is 4 surveys per 2-year period.

For additional information or to receive an application, contact Julie Haugh, Manager, Education and Surveyor Credentialing, at jhaugh@aaahc.org or 847-853-6064.

Ask the Expert

Q. The following standards: 9.H, 10.I.I, 14.N, 22.L, and 23.J, require all "clinical personnel" with direct patient contact to maintain skills in BLS. Does "clinical personnel" include physicians?



A. At its recent meeting, the Standards and Survey Procedures Committee clarified that these standards require that all clinical

"support" personnel must maintain at a minimum skills in basic cardiac life support (BLS). The requirement for these standards does not include physicians.

— Answered by Michon Villanueva
Assistant Director, Accreditation Services

IQI Corner: Innovations in Quality Improvement Awards

The AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement is now accepting applications for the **2009 Innovations in Quality Improvement Award** which honors excellent quality improvement studies that demonstrate interventions leading to positive outcomes.



To be considered for the award, AAAHC-accredited applicants must complete an application describing their studies. **Applications are due by May 29, 2009.** An expert panel will review the applications, and winners will be announced in July. Awards will be presented in December 2009 at the **AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement National Educational Forum** in Las Vegas. The winners will receive complimentary meeting registrations, airfare, and hotel accommodations.

The application with the complete conditions of participation can be downloaded at www.aaahciqi.org.

2008 Knee Arthroscopy with Meniscectomy Study Report

The AAAHC Institute has released the 2008 *Knee Arthroscopy with Meniscectomy* study report. For this study, 29 organizations participated, performing a total of more than 11,000 knee arthroscopies annually. The report includes benchmark information and "best practices" for procedure times, as well as information on procedural practices and patient outcomes. The 2008 *Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion and Colonoscopy* reports were released earlier this year.



If you would like to learn more about AAAHC Institute study participation (registration for 2009 studies will begin late spring) and/or purchasing reports, visit www.aaahciqi.org or contact Anita Kneifel, Assistant Director of the Institute, at akneifel@aaahc.org.

AAAHC joins with CDC to Promote Safe Injection Practices!

AAAHC was honored to accept the invitation to participate in the Center for Disease Control (CDC) campaign on promoting safe injections, as previously mentioned in Update, the Accreditation Association print newsletter. Lately, the committee has been working on the safe injection of insulin pens.



Insulin pens were designed to be safe for one patient to use one pen multiple times, using a new needle for each injection. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in mid-March 2009 issued an alert to all health care professionals reminding them that these single-patient insulin pens and insulin cartridges are not to be used to administer insulin to multiple patients even if a fresh needle is used. The insulin cartridge may become contaminated and transmit blood-borne pathogens to the next user even in the presence of a new needle.

Occurring in two separate U.S. locations, more than 2,000 people are currently being notified of these infection control breaches and are being offered testing for hepatitis and HIV. The FDA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are working together to address these and other preventable infection control lapses. Adhere at all times to safe injection practices. To learn more about safe injection practices or to read the FDA News Alert from March 19, 2009, visit www.CDC.gov or www.fda.gov.

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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