



CONNECTION

AAAHC International Awards First Accreditation

AAAHC International awarded its first accreditation to the [Nova Dental Center](#), San Jose, Costa Rica, on April 23, 2010.

"The goal of AAAHC is to improve the safety and quality of patient care. Our peer-based survey process and our comprehensive education programs make our accreditation unique, and enable us to work closely with ambulatory centers to assess their services and assure they provide high-quality care," said John Burke, Executive Vice President and CEO of AAAHC. "AAAHC International was created to continue this mission in other countries, and ensure that individuals there, whether being native to that country or taking advantage of medical tourism opportunities, receive the high quality of care that all AAAHC-accredited organizations must maintain."

Approximately 95 percent of clients of the Nova Dental Center, a full-service dental clinic that specializes in cosmetic dentistry, are from the U.S., according to [Luis Obando, D.D.S.](#)

"The accreditation process was a lot of work to get everything together to meet the standards, but in the end it helped to improve our clinical and administrative processes," Obando said. Nova Dental received a three-year accreditation from AAAHC. The Accreditation Association launched its international accreditation program in Costa Rica, and other organizations in that country have begun the process toward AAAHC International accreditation. AAAHC will add accreditation for ambulatory organizations in other countries soon.



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AAAHC Announces Newly Elected Officers for 2010-2011

Forward this to a Friend

At the April 18, 2010, meeting, the AAAHC Board of Directors elected the new Board Members for 2010-2011. AAAHC is proud to have such dedicated individuals serving us and is extremely optimistic about the coming year. The Elected Officers are:



- President Marshall M. Baker, MS, FACMPE, an experienced healthcare executive, administrator, educator and consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and a Master of Science in Business Administration with a focus on health care administration. Baker has been a surveyor for AAAHC since the organization's inception and is the immediate past Chair of the Association's Standards and Survey Procedures Committee. Baker represents the [Medical Group Management Association](#) on the AAAHC Board.
- Vice President Jack Egnatinsky, MD, a Medical Director of AAAHC and a board certified anesthesiologist who has held a number of academic and clinical leadership positions within his specialty. Egnatinsky served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps from 1963-1971 and has been an Accreditation Association surveyor since 1996. He is an instructor for the AAAHC Surveyor Training Program and serves on the Board of Directors for the AAAHC [Institute for Quality Improvement](#). He represents the [Ambulatory Surgery Foundation](#) on the AAAHC Board.
- Treasurer Karen McKellar, who also represents the [Medical Group Management Association](#) on the Board, served as Chair of the AAAHC Accreditation Committee from 2005 to 2009. McKellar served a term as president of the Washington State Medical Group Management Association in 2002-2003 and was on its Board for 22 years. She also has served on the Board of the Pacific Coast College Health Association.
- Secretary Margaret Spear, MD, has worked in a college health setting for more than 28 years and has been at Pennsylvania State University since 1990. She currently serves as Chair of the AAAHC Accreditation Committee and has been a surveyor for the AAAHC since 1994. She represents the [American College Health Association](#).

"The AAAHC Board serves an important role in overseeing the direction of the Accreditation Association and developing the accreditation standards that are the basis for high quality ambulatory patient care," said John Burke, Ph.D., AAAHC Executive Vice President and CEO. "We look forward to working with these outstanding individuals in the coming year as we build on and expand the accomplishments of our previous leadership."

Decreased Turnaround Time

AAHC has identified areas of improvement and made significant changes in response to customer feedback about the decision process turnaround time. Staff and surveyors are working hard to lower the amount of time, while continuing to work with the Accreditation Committee to ensure each report still undergoes the peer-review process.



Ask the Expert

Q. My ASC is Medicare certified and we use a C-Arm; does CMS really require that a radiologist supervise radiological services?

A. Yes, CMS expects ASCs that provide any radiological services to meet the condition 416.49 Laboratory and Radiologic Services and more specifically, 416.49(b) Standard: Radiologic Services, which requires:

(2) Radiologic services must meet the hospital conditions of participation (CoPs) for radiologic services specified in 482.26 of the CoPs.

One of the requirements, 482.26(c) Standard: Personnel, requires:

A qualified full-time, part-time or consulting radiologist must supervise the ionizing radiology services and must interpret only those radiologic tests that are determined by the medical staff to require a radiologist's specialized knowledge. For purposes of this section, a radiologist is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is qualified by education and experience in radiology.

CMS interpretive guidelines reinforce that supervision of radiology services may only be performed by a radiologist who is a member of the medical staff. The radiologist that is privileged to supervise radiology services accepts the responsibility for the provision of such services. As a reminder, the radiologist can be full-time or part-time and does not necessarily have to be present all the time. The governing body must determine the requirements of the supervising radiologist. ASCs can seek a radiologist to add to the medical staff or, as noted specifically in the requirement, the ASC may choose to contract with a consulting radiologist.

— Answered by Michon Villanueva, Assistant Director, Accreditation Services



Michon Villanueva

2010 IQI Awards

AAAHC-accredited organizations can apply for the [AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement 2010 Innovations in Quality Improvement Award](#) until June 11, 2010. The AAAHC Institute has appointed an Expert Panel to adjudicate. The Expert Panel will review all submissions for overall clarity and conciseness of the description and/or rationale, as well as evidence of: innovative thinking, working as a team, and setting an example that can be used in other ambulatory health care settings or for other ambulatory health care issues. The representatives of the one or two organizations that submit the studies most closely reflecting the Panel's criteria will receive: complimentary registrations for the [AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement Ninth Annual Educational Forum](#) for Ambulatory Health Care (December 4-5, 2010, at the M Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada); roundtrip economy airfare and two nights hotel stay; and, after making a presentation about their study, an award from the AAAHC Institute, on behalf of their organization. Applications and complete rules can be downloaded from the AAAHC Institute website, www.aaahciqi.org, and clicking on "QI Award Program 2010" from the menu in green at the left of the screen.



*M Hotel and Casino
in Las Vegas, Nevada*

Upcoming IQI 2010 Studies

The AAAHC Institute is also accepting registrations for its July through December 2010 benchmarking and performance measurement studies: Clinical and/or Non-Clinical Cataract Extraction with Lens Insertion; Colonoscopy; Knee Arthroscopy; and Low Back Injection. If you are interested in learning more about or registering for any of these studies, visit the AAAHC Institute website, www.aaahciqi.org, and choose "Studies Information" from the menu in green at the left of the screen. Data collection for the July through December 2010 studies will begin July 1, 2010.



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

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