



CONNECTION

Good things come in threes: AAAHC changes to 3-Year term for all accredited organizations

Following all accreditation surveys for which 2012 Standards are applied, there will be only two possible outcomes: a three-year term or a denial of accreditation. This change will apply to all types of surveys: Initial, Reaccreditation and Early Option, as well as Medicare deemed status surveys.



This policy change comes in response to feedback from organizations and a review of the current health care accreditation market--and it will benefit accredited facilities and patients alike. It may also ease any difficulties with insurance companies, some of which are reluctant to award contracts to organizations receiving less than a three-year term of accreditation.

What does this change look like?

Under the new policy, organizations that receive a three-year term will experience no change in the accreditation process. Organizations that are found to have deficiencies may receive a three-year term requiring a Plan for Improvement (PFI) addressing all deficiencies within 10 days of receiving the decision letter. Similarly, organizations seeking initial or continued Medicare deemed status must submit a Plan of Correction (PoC) that addresses all deficiencies. After reviewing the PFI (or PoC) and the survey report, the Accreditation Committee will determine if an interim survey is required. For an Early Option Survey, the organization will be required to undergo an interim survey during the three-year term.

What doesn't change?

Policies addressing the scope of the survey, survey process, and the organization's right to appeal a denial of accreditation remain unchanged. Additionally, Random and Discretionary surveys may be conducted as necessary in accordance with current AAAHC policies.

For more information about this change, please contact us at info@aaahc.org.

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AAAHC welcomes AORN to the table

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) was voted into AAAHC membership at the recent meeting of the AAAHC Board of Directors. This increases the number of professional organizations represented on the AAAHC board to seventeen.



Member organizations provide governance and strategic direction to the AAAHC. In addition to appointing representatives to serve on the Board of Directors, these appointees sit on the committees that review Standards & Survey Procedures, Surveyor Training & Education, and Accreditation.

The heart of the accreditation process is peer review and while individual registered nurses have long served as AAAHC surveyors, this is the first time that RNs will be represented as a professional group on the AAAHC board.

AAAHC member organizations:

Ambulatory Surgery Foundation (ASF)
American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACS)
American Academy of Dental Group Practice (AADGP)
American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS)
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)
American College Health Association (ACHA)
American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS)
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG)
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ADSDA)
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)
American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)
Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA)

Is Medical Home the future of primary care?

Interest in the concept of the Medical Home continues to grow. At its heart, a Medical Home is a relationship-based model of primary care in which patients are the focus and are meant to be empowered to establish and take control of their own health care. Within this patient-centered focus, the Medical Home delivers:



- Continuity of care by a recognized provider team.

- Care that comprehensively addresses prevention, wellness, acute care, chronic illness management, and end-of-life care.
- Accessibility to care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Clinical, administrative and patient-assessed quality.

The AAAHC has been central to the development of Medical Home Standards based ~~exclusively upon the original Medical Home~~ criteria developed by physician leaders from the American Academy of Family Practitioners, American Academy of Pediatrics, and other professional groups concerned about patients. Our Medical Home accreditation and certification programs will provide you with guidance, consultation, education, support and self-assessment opportunities.

The AAAHC can review your primary care organization as ~~Medical Home in the context~~ of an accreditation survey, or through an independent on-site certification program that focuses exclusively on the qualities required for recognition as a Medical Home.

For information on AAAHC Medical Home On-Site Certification or accreditation, visit www.aaahc.org, contact Marsha Wallander, at mwallander@aaahc.org or call 847.853.6060.

Achieving Accreditation – there's still time to register

The December *Achieving Accreditation* program is right around the corner but there's still time to register. Sessions are designed to meet the needs of individuals new to the accreditation process as well as "old hands" who want a refresher on specific topics.



December 2-3, 2011
Bellagio Las Vegas

Join us **December 2-3, 2011** at Bellagio Las Vegas or save the date for March 16-17, 2012, at the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. Details about the March program will be available in early January.

Then, join us for the National Education Forum

The AAAHC Institute for Quality Improvement hosts its National Educational Forum immediately following *Achieving Accreditation* on **December 3-4, 2011** at Bellagio Las Vegas.

Join your peers in setting-specific workgroups to learn how to build an effective Quality Improvement (QI) program for your ambulatory health care organization. You'll also meet and hear from the winners of the 2011 Innovations in Quality Improvement Awards.

Heroes wanted

You may even be eligible to participate in a current AAAHC Institute study free of charge if your organization has been surveyed and accredited since July 1, 2011. Take what you learn and apply it confidently to enhance patient satisfaction, increase productivity and improve financial performance. Make a difference for your organization. Become a hero to patients and colleagues

We're on Facebook

Thanks to those who responded to our request in the last issue of *Connection* for feedback on social media. You can now find us on Facebook where we post news, links of interest, and photos.



If you have questions or comments, please contact Angela FitzSimmons at afitzsimmons@aaahc.org.

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