



February 4, 2021

Paul Shubert, HFS IV
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
4220 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite #100
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Email: pshubert@health.nv.gov

Mr. Shubert:

I am writing to request that the Nevada State Board of Health recognize and approve HFAP as an accreditor for Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs). HFAP is a brand under Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC) and has maintained Medicare deeming authority for Ambulatory Surgical Centers since 2003. Our current term with CMS extends through September 22, 2023.

HFAP originally obtained approval as a deeming authority for ASCs while under the ownership of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Effective March 7, 2017, CMS recognized the ownership change from the AOA to the Accreditation Association for Hospitals and Health Systems (AAHHS). In October 2020, AAHHS merged with ACHC and that Change of Ownership (CHOW) for HFAP was approved by CMS prior to the merger's closing (refer to the attached CMS letter dated September 23, 2020). Because HFAP is unique among accreditation organizations by being known as a distinct brand owned by a legal entity with a different name, you may see AOA and/or AAHHS mentioned with the HFAP program (e.g. AOA/HFAP, AAHHS/HFAP). Additionally, you may find such references lingering in CMS databases and resources referenced through internet searches.

Throughout these periods of operational change, HFAP has maintained a constant high standard for patient safety and quality of care for ASCs seeking accreditation.

The standards applied to our review of Ambulatory Surgical Centers seeking accreditation are contained in our manual *Accreditation Requirements for Ambulatory Surgery Centers*. You may access a PDF of this manual by clicking this link: https://www.hfap.org/pdf/Manuals/2020_ASC-manual.pdf

We look forward to working with you and should any further documentation be necessary, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marci Ramahi".

Marci Ramahi
ACHC/HFAP ASC Program Director

Enclosures: CMS ACHC Approval Letter. 09.23.20

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-21-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality / Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

September 23, 2020

Jose Domingas
Accreditation Commission for Health Care
139 Weston Oaks Court
Cary, NC 27513

Dear Mr. Domingas:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') technical review team has completed its review of the Accreditation Commission for Health Care's (ACHC's) request to transfer the existing CMS approval for the following AAHHS/HFAP accreditation programs that are to be transferred from The Accreditation Association for Hospitals and Health Systems, Inc. (AAHHS)/ Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) to ACHC as a result of a Change of Ownership (CHOW):

- Acute care hospital accreditation program;
- Critical access accreditation program;
- Ambulatory Surgical Center accreditation program;
- Clinical laboratory accreditation program

The purpose of this review is to ensure that the above-stated accreditation programs under the ownership of ACHC will be financially viable. This review is also performed to ensure that: (1) the accreditation standards for these accreditation programs will continue to meet or exceed those of Medicare; and (2) the health care providers accredited by ACHC with the transferred accreditation programs meet Medicare standards and will provide safe and effective care.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for transfer of the existing CMS approval for the above-stated three (3) acute care accreditation programs to ACHC has been approved.

A Federal Register notice of this approval is tentatively scheduled for publication on October 27, 2020.

Please be advised that ACHC will receive the three (3) transferred acute care accreditation programs and the existing CMS-approval for said accreditation programs subject to the following rules and restrictions:

1. ACHC shall receive the transferred acute care accreditation programs “as is” from AAHHS/HFAP. This means that ACHC must take these accreditation programs exactly as they exist at the time of the CHOW transaction. ACHC must also use the same accreditation standards and survey processes that were used by AAHHS/HFAP.
2. If ACHC decides to make changes to any of the three (3) transferred acute care accreditation programs, they must submit those changes to CMS for review and approval before those changes are implemented, as required by 42 CFR 488.8(b)(2)(i).
3. In accordance with 42 CFR 488.4(a)(1), the accreditation status and Medicare agreement of the existing AAHHS/HFAP accredited providers and suppliers shall not be affected by the CHOW. This means that ACHC must accept and continue the accreditation of all providers and suppliers with Medicare deemed status accreditation from AAHHS/HFAP under the transferred acute care accreditation programs. The existing accreditation must be continued until the accreditation expiration dates established by AAHHS/HFAP, unless said accreditation is terminated by ACHC for justifiable cause or unless the provider voluntarily withdraws as a client of ACHC.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline Gallaher by telephone at (410) 786-8705 or by email at caroline.gallaher@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Sara Brice-Payne (electronic signature)

Sara Brice-Payne
Deputy Director
Division of Continuing & Acute Care Providers (DCACP)