

World of Accreditation

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In recent years, the healthcare industry has seen a smorgasbord of accreditation options develop in all care settings. This list offers a sampling of the many accreditation organizations existing today.

Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)-accredits ambulatory care organizations, including ambulatory surgical facilities, college and university health centers, single and multispecialty group practices, and health networks. Contact: 3201 Old Glenview Rd., Suite 300, Wilmette, IL 60091-2992, (847) 853-6060, www.aaahc.org

American Accreditation HealthCare Commission (AAHCC/URAC)-offers 10 different accreditation programs for managed care organizations. Contact: 1275 K St. NW #1100, Washington, DC 20005, www.urac.org

American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)-accredits specialty and multispecialty surgery facilities. Contact: 1202 Allanson Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060, (888) 545-5222, www.aaaasf.org

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-accredits osteopathic healthcare facilities and medical schools. Contact: 142 East Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611, (800) 621-1773, www.aoa-net.org

CARF...The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission (CARF)-accredits programs and services in adult day services, assisted living, behavioral health, employment and community services, and medical rehabilitation. Contact: 4891 E. Grant Rd., Tucson, AZ 85712, (520) 325-1044, www.carf.org

Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP)-accredits home and community-based healthcare organizations. Contact: 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, (800) 669-1656, www.chapinc.org/index.htm

Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC)-accredits continuing care retirement communities. Contact: 2519 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008-1520, (202) 783-7286, www.ccaonline.org

Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission (EHNAC)-accredits entities that send or receive HIPAA-regulated transactions or transport or process EDI transactions, including clearinghouses, transactions processors, value-added networks, payers, providers, and provider management organizations. Contact: www.ehnac.org

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (Joint Commission)-accredits general, psychiatric, children's and rehabilitation hospitals, healthcare networks, health plans, integrated delivery networks, preferred provider organizations, home care organizations, nursing homes, subacute care programs, assisted living residences, behavioral healthcare organizations, ambulatory care providers, outpatient surgery facilities, rehabilitation centers, infusion centers, and group practices. Contact: One Renaissance Blvd., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181; (630) 792-5000, www.jcaho.org

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-accredits managed care organizations, managed behavioral healthcare organizations, credential verification organizations, and physician organizations. Contact: 2000 L St. NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036, (202) 955-3500, www.ncqa.org

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