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## HFAP Joins ACHC

### Combined Nonprofit Organisation Meets Accreditation Needs of Healthcare Providers Across the Continuum of Care



**CARY, N.C., USA (20 October 2020)** – In a historic move, Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) and Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) are joining to form a single company with the programmes, knowledge and resources to provide complete, quality accreditation and certification services to healthcare providers globally across the continuum of care. HFAP will operate under the ACHC and ACHC International brands.

Effective 19 October 2020, the merger of ACHC and AAHHS, HFAP's parent company, which has been formally approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), drives innovation, streamlines services and creates new opportunities worldwide for existing customers and healthcare organisations of both previously separate, nonprofit organisations. It is the first time that two accrediting organisations with deeming authority from CMS have merged. (CMS is a federal agency in the U.S. that administers the nation's Medicare program and works in partnership with state governments to administer other healthcare programs.)

HFAP offers accreditation for international hospitals, ambulatory surgery centres, ambulatory specialty care organisations and clinical laboratories. In the coming months, the combined programmes of HFAP and ACHC International will expand options for providers, giving organisations an alternative, comprehensive source for accreditation needs in the international marketplace.

"The union between ACHC and HFAP makes perfect sense, from our reputable legacies and complementary cultures, to our shared dedication to providing unparalleled service to clients," said José Domingos, President and CEO of ACHC and ACHC International. "Together, the combined services open possibilities for healthcare providers, affording them more choices and greater ease in meeting the accreditation and certification needs of their organisations."

"HFAP is America's original healthcare accreditation programme and, since its founding in 1945, has driven advancements in patient safety and quality of care through a collaborative, informative and peer-based approach to the accreditation experience," said Meg Gravesmill, Vice President of HFAP. "ACHC has a similar philosophy, and the expanded programme choices, available resources and education opportunities under the merged company gives our customers greater value and convenience in meeting their strategic business goals and broadening plans for the future."

#### Full Suite of Accreditation and Certification Offerings

The merger streamlines accreditation and certification services for healthcare providers with multiple survey needs. ACHC has CMS deeming authority for home health, hospice, renal dialysis, home infusion therapy, and DMEPOS. The newly expanded ACHC adds HFAP programmes with CMS deeming authority for hospitals, ambulatory surgery centres, clinical laboratories and critical access hospitals.

Additional HFAP offerings – such as accreditation programmes for ambulatory specialty care (office-based surgery), non-deemed accreditation and specialty certification for four levels of stroke care, laser and lithotripsy services, in-patient and outpatient joint replacement and wound care – will expand and complement the ACHC portfolio, which also includes programmes for ambulatory care, behavioral health, pharmacy, private duty and sleep.



ACHC International can customise ACHC's U.S. programmes to meet the individual needs of international providers. ACHC International also plans to offer the same customisation options for HFAP programmes in upcoming months.

### **Seamless Transition for Existing Customers**

This merger does not affect accreditation cycles for ACHC, ACHC International or HFAP customers. Current accreditation and/or certification status, account managers and processes will not change. Furthermore, the merger does not require current HFAP customers to undergo an initial survey.

"Our merger brings existing HFAP customers additional opportunities to be awarded recognition of their programmes and a broader range of education," said Gravesmill. "As importantly, customers will continue to enjoy the highest level of personalised service and quality they have trusted for decades."

"We continue to add programmes to our portfolio of services, offering clients in hospital, ambulatory surgery centre and clinical laboratory settings the first true alternative solution for their full accreditation needs," said Domingos. "This merger changes everything, by providing a choice that hasn't previously existed. Together we provide a stronger market solution and are better able to assist organisations that are committed to raising the bar when it comes to improved patient care. We're excited about our future and what this means for our combined clients, strategic partners and the communities we serve."

For more information on accreditation options from ACHC and ACHC International, visit [www.achc.org](http://www.achc.org) or [www.achcinternational.org](http://www.achcinternational.org).

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### **About ACHC and ACHC International**

Accreditation leader ACHC is a nonprofit with over 30 years of experience promoting safe, quality patient care. ACHC and ACHC International develop solutions trusted by healthcare providers and are committed to offering exceptional, personalised service and a customised, collaborative accreditation experience tailored to individual needs. ACHC and ACHC International focus on giving providers a positive, educational experience that continually enhances quality of care and business efficiencies.

Learn more about accreditation options from ACHC and ACHC International. For information on programmes and accreditation pricing, please email [customerservice@achc.org](mailto:customerservice@achc.org) or [info@achcinternational.org](mailto:info@achcinternational.org), call +1 855 937 2242, or visit [www.achc.org](http://www.achc.org) or [www.achcinternational.org](http://www.achcinternational.org).

### **About HFAP**

HFAP is a recognised accreditation organisation with deeming authority from CMS for hospitals, laboratories and ambulatory surgery centres. HFAP's programmes focus on supporting customer success in meeting the standards through a collaborative and educational accreditation process focused on the unique needs of each facility. Founded in 1945, HFAP is America's original healthcare accrediting body and also offers a range of certification programmes for the continuum of stroke care, wound care, joint arthroplasty and lithotripsy services. For information on HFAP, please visit [www.hfap.org](http://www.hfap.org) or call +1 855 937 2242.