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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2009**

**CMS Approval of Deeming Authority of ACHC for Home Health Agencies**

**Raleigh, NC-** The Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC) is pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) have made the decision to approve ACHC for continued recognition as a national accreditation program for home health agencies (HHAs) seeking to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. ACHC's term of approval is for six years, which is the longest period of time that an accreditor can be approved. The date of this final notice is effective February 24, 2009 through February 24, 2015.

Section 1865 (b) (1) of the Social Security Act states that if a provider entity demonstrates through accreditation by an approved national accreditation organization that all applicable Medicare conditions are met or exceeded, CMS would "deem" those provider entities as having met the requirements. Details of the review of ACHC's application are available on the Federal Register: January 23, 2009 (Volume 74, Number 14).

ACHC has applied for additional recognition of its hospice program. ACHC has also been approved by CMS for its home medical equipment program. Sherry Hedrick, Director of Clinical Compliance and Accreditation, commented, "It's great to be nationally recognized again for the quality of our accreditation services and standards. The six year term is a testament to ACHC's commitment to the home health care community."

ACHC is a not-for-profit corporation and has been a symbol of quality since 1986. ACHC has ten accreditation programs including home health, home medical equipment, home infusion, hospice and others.

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