MISSION STATEMENT

Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) is dedicated to delivering the best possible experience and to partnering with organizations and healthcare professionals that seek accreditation and related services.

"The union of ACHC and HFAP opens more choice and greater ease in meeting the accreditation and certification needs of organizations across the continuum of care."

José Domingos, President and CEO of ACHC

Historic Merger Combines Strengths to Meet Market Needs, pg. 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>CORNER VIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>HISTORIC MERGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NEW PROGRAMS AND DISTINCTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PROGRAM UPDATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>REIMAGINING EDUCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>IT’S WHO YOU KNOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACHC and HFAP join forces to offer more to healthcare organizations across the continuum of care.

ACHC continues to expand offerings to meet the needs of providers.

An overview of ACHC accreditation programs and services.

Improving access leads to a jump in participation.

ACHC’s Strategic Partner program benefits providers.
The work of accreditation is, at its heart, an effort to drive and validate excellence in an organization. The providers that seek ACHC accreditation are overwhelmingly invested in improving the quality of care they deliver, whether expressed in the preparation of a complex compound drug, in an adjustment made to a client's mobility device, in the performance of diagnostic services, or in hands-on patient care in a home, outpatient, or hospital setting.

Among these diverse providers, ACHC customers are an extraordinary group. I write that with total confidence, having seen how eagerly individuals and organizations have responded to our efforts to develop new ways to accomplish the work of accreditation and education over the past year.

To offer insight into some of these special individuals, this issue of THE SURVEYOR is focused on making introductions.

We are introducing our new brand, HFAP, the result of a merger that took place last fall (see page 6). As we see consolidation across the industry, adding HFAP to ACHC’s portfolio means we can now offer a single source to meet the accreditation needs of healthcare organizations whether they focus on one element in the continuum — an independent clinical laboratory, for example — or provide services across a range of settings that could include inpatient care, outpatient surgical services, mobile offerings, behavioral health, durable medical equipment, telehealth services, and home health, for example.

We are covering our shift to virtual options for education (see page 16) and the future of that initiative. We are reintroducing each of our programs and the associated specialties and distinctions within them, but, perhaps most significantly, this issue highlights specific individuals who have gone above and beyond for their colleagues or the patients they serve.

The global pandemic has stretched resources for organizations and individuals. It has also, quite simply, brought out the best in many healthcare providers at all levels and across settings. I look forward to your feedback on this content and hope you will reach out with suggestions of other individuals who should be similarly recognized.

We talk a lot about a family atmosphere at ACHC and the expectation that we step up for one another in meaningful ways. Within that environment of mutual support, ACHC aims to be an innovative company, looking ahead and tuned in to the changes in healthcare that will have an impact on our providers so that we not only meet new needs but anticipate them.

Thank you again for making ACHC your accreditor of choice. We look forward to growing in our partnership as we work together to improve healthcare quality across the continuum of care.
HISTORIC MERGER COMBINES STRENGTHS TO MEET MARKET NEEDS

On October 19, 2020, ACHC and HFAP joined to form a single company. The historic merger is the first time that two accrediting organizations with deeming authority from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have combined as a single entity.

Now a brand under ACHC, HFAP is the nation’s original healthcare accreditation program, defining and evaluating quality in hospitals since 1945, when it was established by the American Osteopathic Association.

“HFAP has long represented a customer-centric alternative for acute care and critical access hospitals, clinical laboratories, ambulatory surgery centers, and other providers of office-based surgical services. The union of ACHC and HFAP opens more choice and greater ease in meeting the accreditation and certification needs of organizations across the continuum of care,” said José Domingos, President and CEO of ACHC. “Together, we offer a stronger market solution to organizations committed to raising the bar when it comes to improving patient care.”

“As separate entities, HFAP and ACHC shared a commitment to making sure the accreditation process adds value for customers. The merger brings additional benefit for current and prospective customers – from individual organizations that will now have access to enhanced resources all the way to large healthcare systems that will find efficiencies and economies in consolidating accreditations and specialty recognitions with ACHC as their partner,” noted Mr. Domingos.

The merger represents the latest iteration for our forward-thinking organization. ACHC takes pride in anticipating and acting nimbly to meet customer needs for solutions to verify quality and differentiate excellence. (See the HFAP programs, next page.)

“As separate entities, HFAP and ACHC shared a commitment to making sure the accreditation process adds value for customers.”

José Domingos, President & CEO
INTRODUCING HFAP PROGRAMS

The addition of CMS deeming authority for acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, office based surgery centers and clinical laboratories brings ACHC closer to offering accreditation for settings across the entire continuum of care.

Ambulatory Surgery Center Accreditation

Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) accreditation is available for organizations operated exclusively for purposes of providing surgical services on an outpatient basis. Standards are based on the CMS Conditions for Coverage (CFC) and the survey process is supportive and educational, beginning with the first contact with ACHC.

For an ASC seeking accreditation with deemed status, HFAP provides a comprehensive, educational survey, usually performed by a team consisting of a physician and a registered nurse or by two nurses. The results of which are reported to CMS along with a recommendation regarding new or continuing participation in the Medicare program.

Some ASCs seek accreditation only. In this situation, the HFAP survey team conducts the same complete and thorough survey, which will prepare the organization for success in a state inspection. An accreditation decision is made, but the result is not reported to federal regulatory authorities.

In addition to accreditation programs, HFAP offers certifications that review and recognize specialty programs within an accredited organization.

Office-based Surgery Accreditation

Qualified providers who offer procedural care in business occupancy settings may seek Office-based Surgery Accreditation. The standards for this program include organizational and administrative criteria and requirements for the physical environment, clinical and surgical care, medical records, and pharmacy and laboratory/radiology services, if offered.

Although an increasing number of states require accreditation for facilities using any level of anesthesia/sedation, this is not a program for which CMS offers deeming authority.

Clinical Laboratory Accreditation

More than 70% of medical decisions depend on laboratory test results. HFAP’s Clinical Laboratory Accreditation is dedicated to helping improve the quality of laboratory practice through professional peer review, education, and evaluation of compliance with CLIA and state-level requirements.

The HFAP survey process examines all aspects of the laboratory, including personnel qualifications, pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic testing policies and procedures, proficiency testing, patient test management, quality control, and the overall management practices that distinguish a quality laboratory.

HFAP laboratory accreditation covers all CLIA specialties and subspecialties from point-of-care and waived testing to high-complexity testing and pathology. We accredit laboratories in all settings from independent stand-alone facilities to those located within hospitals that may be separated by focused specialty. Our surveyors are laboratory professionals who add value to the review with an educational mindset and approach.

Hospital Accreditation

(Acute Care and Critical Access Hospitals)

Acute Care Hospital Accreditation serves general acute care, long-term acute care (LTCH) and specialty hospitals. Standards are based on the CMS Conditions of Participation (CoP), and onsite surveys are designed to be an educational, positive experience for the hospital, resulting in an actionable plan for improvement.

The typical survey is conducted by a team that includes a physician, a registered nurse, a hospital administrator, and a life safety expert. While the standards are consistent across hospital surveys, the way in which they are met will vary by the individual organization being surveyed.

HFAP surveyors seek to understand the unique characteristics (size, culture, patient population, services, etc.) of each organization as they bring practical, real-world knowledge to their review of how meaningfully and effectively the organization is meeting the standards.

Critical Access Hospital Accreditation focuses on facilities identified as meeting state and federal requirements for this designation. Limited in size and geographically distant from other health facilities, CAHs meet the specific needs of their communities within the parameters of the designation, often with fewer resources. HFAP has deep experience in assisting organizations that are seeking initial CAH status, guiding these organizations through the process of initial approval as an acute care hospital and subsequent confirmation that they meet the CAH-specific variations of CMS requirements.

Specialty Certifications

In addition to accreditation programs that review the organization as a whole, HFAP offers certifications that review specialty programs within an accredited organization. These include:

Joint Replacement Certification
- Advanced (for outpatient or inpatient settings)
- Advanced with Distinction (for outpatient or inpatient settings)
- Comprehensive (inpatient only)

Lithotripsy Certification
- Advanced
- Advanced with Distinction
- Comprehensive

Stroke Certification
- Stroke Ready
- Primary Stroke
- Thrombectomy
- Comprehensive Stroke

Wound Care Certification
- Advanced
- Advanced with Distinction
NEW PROGRAMS AND DISTINCTIONS

Telehealth Distinction
In November 2020, ACHC launched its Distinction in Telehealth for accredited organizations offering services in ambulatory care, behavioral health, home health, hospice, palliative care, private duty, or renal dialysis. Even before the COVID-19 public health emergency, there was growing recognition among providers that telehealth offers safe, cost-effective access to care for a wide range of patient conditions.

We partnered with Health Recovery Solutions (HRS), a leading provider of telehealth and remote patient monitoring solutions, to create industry-specific standards that shape the distinction program. We partnered with Health Recovery Solutions (HRS), a leading provider of telehealth and remote patient monitoring solutions, to create industry-specific standards that shape the distinction program.

“ACHC is innovatively addressing market needs for differentiation and specialization of services,” said Tim Safely, DMEPOS program director for ACHC. “These distinctions recognize providers who exceed industry expectations for the quality of their patient care.”

The Distinction in Custom Mobility is a response to the need for greater provider involvement in ongoing patient care. The standards for this award demonstrate accountability and commitment to meeting the specific needs of each patient with custom products and documentation of the patient’s response to services provided. Each of these distinctions represents an advancement in care leading to improved quality of life for patients.

DMEPOS Distinctions in Clinical Respiratory Patient Management, Custom Mobility
In March 2021, ACHC launched two groundbreaking distinctions for DMEPOS providers. The Distinction in Clinical Respiratory Patient Management (CRPM) helps licensed Respiratory Care Providers (RCPs) and other qualified healthcare professionals distinguish their expertise in ongoing, home-based care. The distinction focuses on a collaborative, team-based approach to patient care, emphasizing documentation and coordination with each patient’s healthcare team to guide better outcomes.

“The walls of the hospital have been broken,” said Jarrett Bauer, HRS CEO. “Our partners have developed outstanding strategies for telehealth programs, and we are excited for this opportunity to share their best practices with ACHC providers through development of this distinction.”

Assisted Living Accreditation
Assisted living communities play an important role in the lives of their residents and are trusted by families to provide high-quality care in a safe, secure environment. Beginning in 2021, ACHC will offer an Assisted Living Accreditation program to promote both optimal care for residents of these communities and reliable business practices. Assisted Living Accreditation will include assisted living communities, memory care units, and Life Safety Code requirements.

Assisted living organizations are increasingly recognizing the value of pursuing accreditation to differentiate themselves.

Palliative Care Accreditation
ACHC now offers Palliative Care Accreditation for any setting in which community-based palliative care is provided by a physician and advanced practice providers such as physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and clinical nurse specialists.

Palliative Care does not preclude simultaneous curative care but focuses on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of an illness for both the patient and the patient’s non-professional caregivers/family.

Palliative Care Accreditation is a new program for organizations with a distinct palliative care program. It joins ACHC’s existing Distinction in Palliative Care. The distinction provides additional recognition for palliative care when used as a bridge to another program and is available to providers already accredited for Home Health, Hospice, or Private Duty.

“ACHC is innovatively addressing market needs for differentiation and specialization of services,” said Tim Safely, DMEPOS program director for ACHC. “These distinctions recognize providers who exceed industry expectations for the quality of their patient care.”

The Distinction in Custom Mobility is a response to the need for greater provider involvement in ongoing patient care. The standards for this award demonstrate accountability and commitment to meeting the specific needs of each patient with custom products and documentation of the patient’s response to services provided. Each of these distinctions represents an advancement in care leading to improved quality of life for patients.

In May 2021, ACHC launched accreditation for dental services provided outside a standard brick-and-mortar dental office. This could mean services provided in the patient’s home, in a healthcare facility, or in a dedicated mobile “office.” The accreditation survey will verify and validate that good dental practices are followed, including requirements for infection control protocols, patient record management, equipment management, and ongoing performance improvement activities, among others.

This groundbreaking offering provides the industry’s first opportunity for third-party oversight, providing quality assurance for patients and payors and offering a differentiator for providers.

In 2020, Tammie Mallory, NP, a palliative care specialist, began working with a patient who was suffering from chronic depression, arthritis, and frequent falls. He was not able to see his primary care provider due to clinic closures because of COVID-19 and was unable to complete a telehealth visit.

Tammie shared her findings directly with the patient’s primary care provider to collaboratively develop a plan of care that included medication changes and a referral to home health for physical therapy. Because of Tammie’s commitment to her patient’s palliative needs during these unprecedented times, he is now walking two miles a day, has gone 10 months without a fall, and reports an improved mental state.

Tammie’s persistence in finding solutions to improve her patient’s quality of life exemplifies the holistic approach of her accredited organization.

Assisted Living Accreditation
Palliative Practitioners Are Patient Advocates

In 2020, Tammie Mallory, NP, a palliative care specialist, began working with a patient who was suffering from chronic depression, arthritis, and frequent falls. He was not able to see his primary care provider due to clinic closures because of COVID-19 and was unable to complete a telehealth visit.

Tammie shared her findings directly with the patient’s primary care provider to collaboratively develop a plan of care that included medication changes and a referral to home health for physical therapy. Because of Tammie’s commitment to her patient’s palliative needs during these unprecedented times, he is now walking two miles a day, has gone 10 months without a fall, and reports an improved mental state.

Tammie’s persistence in finding solutions to improve her patient’s quality of life exemplifies the holistic approach of her accredited organization.

Mobile Dentistry Accreditation

In May 2021, ACHC launched accreditation for dental services provided outside a standard brick-and-mortar dental office. This could mean services provided in the patient’s home, in a healthcare facility, or in a dedicated mobile “office.” The accreditation survey will verify and validate that good dental practices are followed, including requirements for infection control protocols, patient record management, equipment management, and ongoing performance improvement activities, among others.
PROGRAM UPDATES

ACHC’s accreditation programs are designed to meet the needs of providers by bringing customizable solutions that promote ongoing quality improvement in patient care and business operations.

AMBULATORY CARE
Ambulatory care is broad in concept, allowing for future development of additional, focused accreditation offerings. Today, ACHC’s Ambulatory Care Accreditation is intended to meet the needs of convenient care clinics, both stand-alone and those that operate within a retail setting.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
More than a year into a public health emergency, discussion of anxiety and depression has become increasingly common. Concurrent with the conversation has been an increase in these diagnoses. Organizations offering a wide range of behavioral health options chose accreditation as a mark of quality and a differentiator for those seeking supportive services.

ACHC Behavioral Health Accreditation Standards are focused on the specific services provided by the organization, from Assessment and Referral Services to Residential Treatment.

Behavioral Health Surveyors completed training in AHC’s virtual survey process to increase capacity and opportunity for qualifying organizations.

The Distinction in Telehealth is available as an adjunct to this accreditation.

DMEPOS
In partnership with ACHCU, the DMEPOS program conducted town hall meetings in September to provide information on our virtual survey process. Over 500 registered for these discussions. ACHC was the first accreditation organization to offer a virtual survey process for DMEPOS providers, meeting their need and desire for recognition despite the challenges of the public health emergency. This spring, two new distinctions — Respiratory Patient Management and Custom Mobility — were launched (see page 10 for details) as specialty add-ons to existing DMEPOS accreditation offerings.

HOME HEALTH
Demand for home health services accelerated as a result of COVID-19, with many patients preferring care in their own home over travel to provider offices. ACHC met the concurrent demand for Home Health Accreditation through virtual surveys for non-deemed agencies and for licensure in California and Florida. Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin also accept ACHC Home Health Accreditation in lieu of state licensure surveys.

Recognition of excellence in specialized care is available through the Distinction in Behavioral Health, Distinction in Palliative Care, and Distinction in Telehealth — each as an adjunct to this accreditation.

HOME INFUSION THERAPY
This program focuses on the education, medication review, and development and administration of the plan of care provided by a nurse administering infusion therapy in the patient’s home. Medicare reimbursement requires accreditation for home infusion therapy suppliers, and CMS recently clarified billing guidance for customers trying to understand whether they need to seek accreditation. To support suppliers and providers, educational resources are available, including “on demand” webinars and an accreditation workbook through ACHCU (see page 20).

The Right Start Builds A Relationship of Trust
Kylah Martin, RN, is a home health admissions nurse who is the first person a new patient sees. New patients can be worried about a recent medical status change, and natural apprehension about a stranger in their home was heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kylah’s organization has no concerns about putting patients and their families at ease because Kylah starts the home healthcare experience off on the right foot, setting up the entire team for success as other nurses take over ongoing care. The ultimate professional, Kylah excels with a thoughtful and thorough approach to communicating with new clients.

Kylah goes above and beyond to create the trust needed to achieve patient goals. Her actions reflect the emphasis on caring relationships that is central to her ACHC-accredited organization.
HOSPICE

ACHC is known for excellence in hospice care accreditation, whether that care is provided in the patient’s home or in a setting owned and operated by the hospice provider. We also conduct licensure surveys for hospice care in California, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin. Virtual surveys became available during the public health emergency for non-deemed accreditation and for licensure surveys in California.

Distinctions in Behavioral Health, Palliative Care, and Telehealth are available to further differentiate the services of an accredited hospice.

PHARMACY

As for many other ACHC programs, a virtual survey was developed for Pharmacy Accreditation early in the pandemic to provide services to pharmacies that could not be safely surveyed on site. CMS has allowed this for deemed pharmacies but will require a follow-up, on-site survey. Some highly regulated states have established separate guidelines; Michigan’s Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has recently approved a process allowing for virtual surveys.

Pharmacy Accreditation offers specialty focus recognition with Distinctions in Hazardous Drug Handling, Infectious Disease Specific to HIV, Nutrition Support, Oncology, and Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs.

PRIVATE DUTY

Private Duty Accreditation standards promote excellence in patient care by hourly or shift-based home care providers as well as the business practices needed to ensure that an agency can effectively manage quality oversight. This dual focus is sustained by ACHC’s educational approach. As an example, a recent issue of our monthly e-newsletter for Private Duty providers looked at the need to inform and educate clients about their financial responsibility for services, offering tips for meeting the standard.

In 2020, ACHC introduced virtual accreditation surveys to give organizations a safe, convenient way to meet requirements throughout the pandemic.

Distinctions in Palliative Care and Telehealth are available adjuncts to this accreditation.

RENAL DIALYSIS

Under the public health emergency declaration, CMS has allowed for a range of flexibilities for providers. One such opportunity proposed temporary accreditation to allow renal dialysis facilities and service additions applying for initial Medicare certification to begin offering services. ACHC responded with a plan that uses our established and successful virtual compliance review. CMS approved this option with the expectation that full accreditation will be awarded following an on-site survey when such an event can be safely completed. ACHC approaches all accreditation with an expectation of commitment to continuous quality improvement and a flexible attitude regarding the means of compliance with individual standards. Collaborating with industry leaders, we have found that they are eager to set a high bar for quality and appreciate our partnership in promoting excellence in dialysis services.

Distinction in Telehealth is offered as an adjunct to this accreditation.

SLEEP

Some hospitals have only recently become aware that their sleep labs require separate accreditation and are not covered under their overall facility accreditation. ACHC is ready to help with an efficient, cost-effective program staffed by clinical experts.

Home Sleep Testing as a stand-alone service is also in demand, and those Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities (IDTFs) conducting sleep studies that remained open through the pandemic continued to seek accreditation for Medicare reimbursement. ACHC was quick to respond to the development of a virtual survey process, and we continue to perform both on-site and virtual surveys.

Hospice Nurse Provides More Than Just Continuity of Care

Shawna Waligorski, RN, is a hospice nurse whose thoughtful care made a potentially stressful placement transition easier. While working on arranging inpatient hospice care, she learned that the patient had a cat that lived with him in his assisted living community. The move to hospice care raised worries about who would care for his beloved pet.

Shawna knew of a community resource that provides services to ensure that pets are cared for and continue to have loving homes when they must be separated from their human companions due to illness. The adoption that was arranged relieved an enormous concern for Shawna’s patient, and the night before the cat was to be rehomed, Shawna visited the assisted living facility on her own time to make clay paw prints with her patient.

He reported that he felt at ease knowing his pet was safe and having a tactile reminder to keep with him. Shawna went above and beyond to provide emotional support for this man. Her actions reflect the values of her ACHC-accredited organization.

Accreditation Builds Mastery of Quality Concepts

Yuyun Rahmasari, PharmD, BCPS, BCSCP, is a sterile compounding coordinator at an outpatient pharmacy. She is new to sterile compounding but asked probing questions of the ACHC Surveyors that demanded their expertise and knowledge of USP <797>.

One ACHC Pharmacy Surveyor said, “This entire team, but especially Dr. Rahmasari, impressed me with the substance of their questions. I have surveyed many universities and hospitals, but I have never seen this level of knowledge of our standards coupled with the desire not to meet them but to master them that was evident here.”

Dr. Rahmasari went above and beyond to enhance her own knowledge of the standards applicable to her pharmacy. Her actions reflect the quality orientation of her ACHC-accredited organization.
REIMAGINING EDUCATION: ACHCU COMES TO YOU

ACHCU is our education division staffed with program planners and a superior team of clinical educators.

While we’ve all become conversant with virtual conferences and video chats over the past year, ACHCU has excelled at increasing access and maintaining engagement in virtual environments, hosting more than 20 virtual workshops and 70 webinars. Continuing education units (CEUs) are available for virtual events focused on Home Health, Hospice, Renal Dialysis, and Specialty Pharmacy. Policy and procedure (P&P) manuals and “Guide to Success” workbooks have helped many organizations achieve and maintain compliance with accreditation standards. ACHCU’s customized tools represent by 80 “P&P” manuals and more than 25 Performance Improvement Plans—ensure that quality measures are effective and sustainable for your organization rather than encouraging “solutions” that are not relevant.

HealthTrainU adds depth of resources

Two years ago, ACHCU acquired an online learning management system (LMS), and, in October 2019, the newly branded HealthTrainU was launched as a subscription-based platform to allow healthcare organizations to easily and efficiently provide and manage employee education. In the past year, HealthTrainU expanded the original catalog of 200 courses with 52 new offerings. Additionally, subscribing companies added 44 custom courses to meet and track the specific educational needs of their teams.

Subscribing organizations can add custom courses required for and accessible only by their employees, but HealthTrainU includes courses approved by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), by the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA), by the Virginia Nurses Association, and by other credentialing agencies.

HTU has libraries of courses covering topics and soft skills areas. Each of the categories listed includes four to 20 distinct courses.

In the past year, HealthTrainU has expanded the original catalog of 200 courses with 52 new offerings.

- Assistive Technologies – Principles and Practices
- ATP/RTS/RESNA Rehab
- Basics of Customer Service
- Certified DME Specialist
- Complex Rehab Technology
- Driver/Delivery Technician
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Emergency Preparedness
- HME Annual Reviews
- HME: Industry and Services Overview
- Home Health
- Home Health Aides
- Hospice
- Orthotics
- Management in the HME Industry
- Professional/Personal Development
- Provider Enhanced Patient Care
- Rehab/Respirator Repair
- Reimbursement, Foundations of
- Respiratory Therapy
- Retail Sales
- Safety, Compliance, and Annual Training

HFAP Academy joins ACHCU

The merger that brought HFAP hospital, clinical laboratory, and ambulatory surgery center accreditation to the ACHC portfolio of programs (see page 6) also brought HFAP Academy under the umbrella of ACHCU.

HFAP Academy represents three distinct types of educational opportunity to support organizations seeking HFAP accreditation: webinars, Academy Live, an intensive multi-track seminar that will be presented virtually in the fall of 2021; and Academy Onsite. Academy Onsite is a completely customizable event that takes place at your location with a teaching team assembled to meet your learning goals. It can be as narrowly focused as a single topic—understanding life safety in the ASC, for example—or as broad as “seeing your hospital through the eyes of an HFAP Surveyor.”

For more information about any ACHCU events or resources, please visit our website at achcu.com, call (919) 228-6559, or email customerservice@achcu.com.

EDUCATING FOR EXCELLENCE

Karen Smith, CMRP, is director of operations for a DME start-up dedicated to bridging the gap between hospital and home.

“We want to be at the hospital bedside providing what the patient needs at discharge and available to serve patients directly in their homes. Our goal is to be world-class and set a new benchmark for DME providers,” she said. This goal included achieving initial accreditation with a new team, working remotely, in the midst of a pandemic. The new team was “so green to the industry we didn’t know what we didn’t know” and had a lot of questions. Their Account Advisor introduced them to the resources of ACHCU.

Karen started with tools and workbooks and engaged her team in identifying knowledge gaps. Then she worked with ACHCU to develop a series of customized workshops to prepare the team for their accreditation survey.

“The ACHCU team became colleagues in our journey.”

Karen Smith, CMRP

“We would do a session as a team, then debrief with ACHCU staff to figure out how and where to focus in the next session. Between workshops, I set up team meetings for two hours every Friday. We used the time to build the base of knowledge that would make us successful. We got to know the standards and each other,” said Karen. “The ACHCU team became colleagues in our journey. When the survey was completed, I called them immediately to say, ‘I think we did really well and can’t wait for our result.’”

Karen’s organization achieved DME Accreditation with no deficiencies. Karen went above and beyond to prepare her team for success. Her actions reflect the commitment to continuous learning that characterizes an ACHC-accredited organization.

achc.org

THE SURVEYOR SPRING/SUMMER 2021
IT’S WHO YOU KNOW

ACHC’s Strategic Partner program shows why ACHC has always been known as a highly collaborative and approachable organization. The program is designed to add value for all stakeholders. Our partnering organizations offer ACHC counsel and guidance on the industry areas they know best. They provide industry expertise as we develop or revise standards and serve as presenters for educational events. In turn, ACHC offers support to their constituents in the form of discounts and resources.

These relationships are of critical value to keeping ACHC standards relevant and up to date with current best practices across the many healthcare segments we serve.

Together with our Strategic Partners, we help individual providers achieve quality outcomes for their patients/clients while meeting their business objectives.

Check the list below for organizations you may want to join or learn more about.

Accredited Home Healthcare Directory
AHI Group, Inc.
Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding
AlliantRx
Always Best Care
American College of Apothecaries
AmerisourceBergen
Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina
Atlantic Coast Medical Equipment Services Association
Biomedix Dialysis
California Association for Health Services at Home
California Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Association
Cardinal Health
Cardinal Health 118, LLC d/b/a VitalSource GPO
CARE Pharmacies Cooperative Inc.
The Carolinas Center
ComForCare Health Care Holdings, LLC
Community Oncology Pharmacy Association
Comprehensive Pharmacy Services, Inc.
Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home
ExceleraRx Corp.
FirstLight Home Care Franchising, LLC
Florida Alliance for Health Care Services
Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey
Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts
Home Care Association of America
Home Care Association of Florida
Home Care Association of New York State
Home Options Network, LLC
Illinois HomeCare & Hospice Council
Imark Billing
IMCO Home Care
Indiana Association for Home & Hospice Care, Inc.
Innovatix, LLC
Kansas Home Care & Hospice Association
Kentucky Home Care Association
KloudScript, Inc.
Louisiana-Mississippi Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
Managed Health Care Associates, Inc.
Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association
McKesson Corporation
The MED Group
Michigan HomeCare & Hospice Association
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
New Mexico Association for Home & Hospice Care
Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice
Pennsylvania Homecare Association
Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions, Ltd.
Professional Compounding Centers of America
Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care
Shields Health Solutions
SomniTech
Tennessee Association for Home Care
Texas & New Mexico Hospice Organization
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
The US Oncology Network
Trellis Rx, LLC
Virginia Association for Home Care and Hospice
Vital Care, Inc.

Interested in becoming an ACHC Strategic Partner?
Contact Business Development at (855) 937-2242.
achc.org/strategic-partners
ACHC OFFERS MORE, SO YOU CAN OFFER MORE TO YOUR PATIENTS