

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sayedha Uddin, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Secretary, NCHS/CDC, Board of Scientific Counselors, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2627, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 458-4303, email [isx9@cdc.gov](mailto:isx9@cdc.gov).

The Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Sherri Berger**

*Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27718 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT); Notice of Charter Renewal**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of charter renewal.

**SUMMARY:** This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972, that the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period through November 25, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jonathan Mermin, M.D., M.P.H., Designated Federal Officer, CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT), CDC, HHS, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop E07, Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027, Telephone 404-639-8000, [jhm7@cdc.gov](mailto:jhm7@cdc.gov).

The Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Sherri Berger,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27717 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****Notice of Closed Meeting**

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with provisions set forth in Section 552b(c) (4) and (6), Title 5 U.S.C., and the Determination of the Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, CDC, pursuant to Public Law 92-463.

*Name of Committee:* Safety and Occupational Health Study Section (SOHSS); National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

*Date:* February 20-21, 2019.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., EST.

*Place:* Embassy Suites, 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.

*Agenda:* The meeting will convene to address matters related to the conduct of Study Section business and for the study section to consider safety and occupational health-related grant applications.

*For Further Information Contact:* Nina Turner, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, NIOSH, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV 26506, (304) 285-5976; [nturner@cdc.gov](mailto:nturner@cdc.gov).

The Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Sherri Berger,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27721 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****Notice of Closed Meeting**

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended, and the Determination of the Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, CDC, pursuant to Public Law 92-463. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)—PAR 13-129; NIOSH Member Conflict Special Emphasis Panel.

*Date:* February 26, 2019.

*Time:* 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. EST.

*Place:* Teleconference.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*For Further Information Contact:* Nina Turner, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Office of Extramural Programs, 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506, Telephone: (304) 285-5976; Email: [nxt2@cdc.gov](mailto:nxt2@cdc.gov).

The Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Sherri Berger,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27722 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-18-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****CDC/Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee (MSHRAC); Notice of Charter Renewal**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice of charter renewal.

**SUMMARY:** This gives notice that under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972, that the Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee (MSHRAC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period through November 30, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey H. Welsh, Designated Federal Officer, CDC/Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee (MSHRAC), CDC, HHS, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, Telephone 412-386-4040, [juw5@cdc.gov](mailto:juw5@cdc.gov).

The Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Sherri Berger,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27720 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4163-19-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-3362-FN]

#### Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Approval of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) Application for Continued Approval of Its Ambulatory Surgical Center Accreditation Program

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

**ACTION:** Final notice.

**SUMMARY:** This final notice announces our decision to approve the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. for continued recognition as a national accrediting organization for ambulatory surgical centers that wish to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs.

**DATES:** *Applicable Date:* December 20, 2018 through December 20, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lillian Williams, (410) 786-8636, Monda Shaver, (410) 786-3410, or Renee Henry, (410) 786-7828.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Background

Under the Medicare program, eligible beneficiaries may receive covered services in an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) provided certain requirements are met. Sections 1832(a)(2)(F)(i) of the Social Security Act (the Act) establishes distinct criteria for facilities seeking designation as an ASC. Regulations concerning provider agreements are at 42 CFR part 489 and those pertaining to activities relating to the survey and certification of facilities are at 42 CFR part 488. The regulations at 42 CFR part 416, specify the conditions that an ASC must meet in order to participate in the Medicare program, the scope of covered services and the conditions for Medicare payment for ASCs.

Generally, to enter into an agreement, an ASC must first be certified as complying with the conditions set forth in part 416 and recommended to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for participation by a state survey agency. Thereafter, the ASC is subject to periodic surveys by a state survey agency to determine whether it continues to meet these conditions. However, there is an alternative to certification surveys by state agencies. Accreditation by a nationally recognized Medicare accreditation program approved by CMS may substitute for both initial and ongoing state review.

Section 1865(a)(1) of the Act provides that, if the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services finds that accreditation of a provider entity by an approved national accrediting organization meets or exceeds all applicable Medicare conditions or requirements, we may deem the provider entity as having met those conditions or requirements. Accreditation by an accrediting organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation.

A national accrediting organization applying for approval of its Medicare accreditation program under part 488, subpart A, must provide CMS with reasonable assurance that the accrediting organization requires its accredited provider entities to meet requirements that are at least as stringent as the Medicare conditions. Our regulations concerning the approval of accrediting organizations are set forth at § 488.4.

### II. Application Approval Process

Section 1865(a)(3)(A) of the Act requires that we publish, within 60 days of receipt of an organization's complete application, a notice identifying the national accrediting body making the

request, describing the nature of the request, and providing at least a 30-day public comment period. We have 210 days from the receipt of a complete application to publish a notice of approval or denial of the application.

### III. Provisions of the Proposed Notice

On July 26, 2018, we published a proposed notice entitled "Application from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) for Continued Approval of its Ambulatory Surgical Center Accreditation Program" in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 35486) announcing AAAHC's request for continued approval of its Medicare ASC accreditation program. In the proposed notice, we detailed our evaluation criteria. Under section 1865(a)(2) of the Act and in our regulations at § 488.5, we conducted a review of AAAHC's Medicare ASC accreditation renewal application in accordance with the criteria specified by our regulations, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- An onsite administrative review of AAAHC's: (1) Corporate policies; (2) financial and human resources available to accomplish the proposed surveys; (3) procedures for training, monitoring, and evaluation of its ASC surveyors; (4) ability to investigate and respond appropriately to complaints against accredited ASCs; and, (5) survey review and decision-making process for accreditation.

- The comparison of AAAHC's Medicare ASC accreditation program standards to our current Medicare ASC conditions for coverage (CfCs).

- A documentation review of AAAHC's survey process to:

- ++ Determine the composition of the survey team, surveyor qualifications, and AAAHC's ability to provide continuing surveyor training.

- ++ Compare AAAHC's processes to those we require of state survey agencies, including periodic resurvey and the ability to investigate and respond appropriately to complaints against accredited ASCs.

- ++ Evaluate AAAHC's procedures for monitoring ASCs it has found to be out of compliance with AAAHC's program requirements. (This pertains only to monitoring procedures when AAAHC identifies non-compliance. If noncompliance is identified by a state survey agency through a validation survey, the state survey agency monitors corrections as specified at § 488.9(c).)

- ++ Assess AAAHC's ability to report deficiencies to the surveyed ASC and respond to the ASCs plan of correction in a timely manner.