



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • Dennis Schrader, Secretary

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## Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

TO: Maryland Home Health Agencies

FROM: Patricia Tomsko Nay, M.D. *may*  
Executive Director  
Office of Health Care Quality

RE: Approval of the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) as Home  
Health Agency Accrediting Organization for State Licensing Purposes

DATE: December 12, 2017

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I am pleased to announce that the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) has been approved by the Secretary as an accrediting organization for Home Health Agencies (HHAs) and has been granted deeming authority for state licensure purposes. ACHC's approval as an accrediting organization means that, effective immediately, HHAs accredited by ACHC are deemed to comply with Maryland State licensure requirements and are exempt from routine licensure surveys conducted by the Department. To remain licensed, deemed HHAs must continue to submit a renewal application and comply with applicable Maryland Health Care Commission requirements. With the application, the licensee seeking deemed status must submit its currently applicable ACHC inspection results and all supporting documentation.

Please note that the Department retains jurisdiction to inspect an accredited and deemed home health agency under circumstances including to follow up on any serious problem identified by an approved accreditation organization; to investigate a complaint; and to determine compliance with any quality requirement or to validate the findings of an approved accreditation organization. Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. 19-2302.

To be approved for deeming, an accrediting organization must establish to the Secretary that its standards are equal to or more stringent than existing State requirements. The Department also evaluates the survey or inspection process to ensure the integrity of the inspection process and enters into a formal written information sharing agreement.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Fagan, Program Manager of the Ambulatory Care Unit, at [barbara.fagan@maryland.gov](mailto:barbara.fagan@maryland.gov)

