



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center of Pawhuska Achieves AAAHC Certification

Pawhuska, Oklahoma – August 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center has achieved certification by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Primary Care facilities that earn AAAHC Certification demonstrate a dedication to high-quality patient health care and become part of an elite force of organizations that prioritize quality for their patients and staff.

Status as an organization that has earned certification means Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center has met the highest level of nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC.

*1095 Strong* is a transformational movement and call-to action spearheaded by the AAAHC to equip ambulatory leaders with the best of what they need to operationalize quality practices. The three-year, or 1,095-day period between certifications, is a critical time when ambulatory health organizations, with help from proven experts, can develop the kind of everyday habits that enable leaders in the industry to provide the utmost in quality care to their patients. Organizations, such as Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center that earn AAAHC Certification embody the *1095 Strong, quality every day* philosophy, an ongoing commitment to high-quality care and patient safety.

While the onsite survey is an important component of the process, ongoing compliance and continuous improvement are part of the certification maintenance mindset that a facility should integrate into its daily activities long after the survey has been completed. AAAHC Certification demonstrates the use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, ongoing performance improvement strategies, and an effective organizational infrastructure aimed at providing safe and effective care. The AAAHC survey team specifically praised Administration for their diligent program oversight and compliance efforts during the accreditation event. Mr. Kirk Shaw, Clinic Administrator, stated, “The strength of our employees and staff members is what really made us shine, and the team got us through this extremely rigorous process and deserve all of the credit, we couldn’t have done this without them!”

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking AAAHC Certification undergo an extensive self-assessment and onsite survey by AAAHC expert surveyors – physicians, nurses, and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory care. The survey is peer-based and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

The Osage Nation Health Services has served the Osage Nation for several years, becoming compacted in 2015 with the United States Government and delivering the best of primary care, dental, optometry, behavioral health, and a variety of other health and wellness programs. Today, their vision is, “...a strong culturally-sensitive health system that will transform the health of the communities we serve,” and the mission is, “...the Osage leaders are changing the way people are cared for and are committed to advancing health and wellness to serve the public.” Osage Nation Health Services are located at the Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center, 715 Grandview Avenue, Pawhuska, OK 74056, Office Ph: (918) 287-9313 and Fax: (918) 287-5205. Please visit our FB page or our updated website at: <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/services/wahzhazhe-health-center>.

(More)



*Wah-Zha-Zhe Health Center Receives AAAHC Certification (cont.)*

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**About AAAHC**

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,600 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to onsite review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation, along with specialized programs including Advanced Orthopedic Certification and Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification, demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation term. AAAHC Accreditation and Certification Programs are recognized by third-party payors, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).

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