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ACHC Launching New Distinction in Oncology Program

Cary, NC- Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) is pleased to announce it has partnered with Community Oncology Pharmacy Association (COPA) to develop a comprehensive Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation with Distinction in Oncology. This partnership helps to elevate the practice of oncology by introducing an accreditation distinction. ACHC provides a wide range of pharmacy accreditation services that assess the business as a whole, including the process of preparing medications. Regardless of setting, pharmacies seeking accreditation with a Distinction in Oncology must do so in combination with ACHC Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation.

“ACHC is thrilled to partner with COPA in an effort to provide the oncology community with resources and services that will lead to enhanced quality and efficiency of treatments,” said Tim Safley, ACHC Director, DMEPOS, Pharmacy, and Sleep. “We are encouraged by COPA’s forward thinking and development of the association to support community cancer clinics and their patients. It is a step in the right direction for the entire industry and will serve to support physicians with quality standards, best practices, and educational resources.”

“Community Oncologists treat almost 70% of all cancer patients,” said Ted Okon, Executive Director of Community Oncology Alliance which coordinates COPA. “Over the last decade, in-house pharmacies at community oncology practices have emerged as a vital component in the quest to provide patients with high quality, high value, and convenient personalized cancer care. This benefit has become even more evident with the shift towards oral cancer drugs and the rise of specialty pharmacies.”

Currently 35% of all cancer drugs in development are oral drugs. When the treating Oncologist dispenses oral drugs, advantages to patients are prompt treatment, the ability to better monitor compliance and manage side effects, and improved quality of care. Just as Oncologists are board certified, and the Commission on Cancer accredits Oncology Medical Home practices, ACHC Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation with Distinction in Oncology helps ensure cancer patients receive oral cancer drugs and ancillary oral therapies in a safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable environment that is integrated with their overall plan of care.

Since the introduction of its Pharmacy Accreditation program in 1996 (and as the first accrediting body to offer accreditation in Specialty Pharmacy), ACHC has grown to become a leading national accreditation organization with more than 900 pharmacies accredited in the U.S. With a broad array of pharmacy compliance solutions, including accreditation programs for specialty, infusion, long term care, and non-sterile and sterile compounding services, ACHC is positioned to be the solution of choice for all organizations. ACHC is also committed to providing educational resources that facilitate continuous compliance.

ACHC is a non-profit accreditation organization that has stood as a symbol of quality and excellence since 1986. The organization has CMS Deeming Authority for Home Health, Hospice, and DMEPOS and a Quality Management System that is certified to ISO 9001:2008. ACHC is the provider’s choice for accreditation because of its personal Accreditation Advisors, relevant and realistic standards, competitive pricing, and a friendly, consultative approach to accreditation. Accreditation by ACHC reflects an organization’s dedication and commitment to meeting standards that facilitate a higher level of performance and patient care.

For more information on ACHC Accreditation programs, or to download ACHC Accreditation Standards, please visit www.achc.org or contact customerservice@achc.org or (855) 937-2242.

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