



Contact:
Lucy Ramirez
lr Ramirez@chicagofamilyhealth.org
773-364-2264

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHICAGO FAMILY HEALTH CENTER AWARDED AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE ACCREDITATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

Chicago, IL - February 7, 2017 - Chicago Family Health Center (CFHC) today announced it has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with their nationally recognized standards. The Gold Seal of Approval is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective patient care.

In December, CFHC underwent a rigorous onsite survey in which a team of Joint Commission surveyors evaluated the organization's compliance with ambulatory care standards related to a variety of areas, including coordination of care, infection prevention and control, medication management and patient education and training. Prior to the survey, CFHC staff worked diligently as a team over a year preparing to meet the standards required to be aligned with The Joint Commission, the premier healthcare quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation.

"Chicago Family Health Center is very pleased to receive this accreditation and extremely proud of the tremendous work and commitment put forth by our entire organization throughout this process," said Barrett Hatches, Ph.D., CFHC Chief Executive Officer. "Most importantly our patients and communities will know we have achieved the highest standards in patient care, quality and safety for everyone who comes here to receive care."

"Joint Commission accreditation provides ambulatory care organizations with the processes that contribute to improvements in a variety of areas from the enhancement of staff education to the demonstration of leading practices within the ambulatory setting," said Michael Kulczycki, M.B.A., CAE, executive director, Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. "We commend Chicago Family Health Center and its staff for their passion, dedication and tenacity to improve patient care throughout the communities they serve."

Chicago Family Health Center provides quality, coordinated and comprehensive primary healthcare that includes medical, dental and behavioral health services, as well as support programs on the south side of Chicago. With health centers in South Chicago, Pullman, East Side, Roseland and Chicago Lawn, CFHC cared for more than 30,000 patients last year.

Moving forward CFHC will continue to develop and implement approaches and strategies based on The Joint Commission standards with the ultimate goal of maintaining and providing the highest levels of quality services.

The Joint Commission's ambulatory health care standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. The standards are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help organizations measure, assess and improve performance.

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Chicago Family Health Center

[Chicago Family Health Center](http://chicagofamilyhealthcenter.org) is a community-based, nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides access to comprehensive and coordinated healthcare services and programs on the south side of Chicago. First opened in 1977, CFHC ensures that patients receive care regardless of their race, religion, gender, age, income or ability to pay. In 2016, CFHC served nearly 30,000 patients with nearly 90,000 visits and more than \$8.4 million in charitable care.

The Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, [The Joint Commission](http://www.jointcommission.org) seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.