

NEWS RELEASE

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Coastal Health and Wellness Awarded Gold Seal of Approval

The Joint Commission Recognizes CHW's Commitment to High Quality Patient Care

GALVESTON COUNTY, Texas – Coastal Health and Wellness has again earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with the Commission's 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.

Coastal Health and Wellness, operated by the Galveston County Health District, underwent a rigorous, unannounced on-site survey in February of this year. During the survey, a team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated compliance with ambulatory care standards related to a variety of areas, including coordination of care, monitoring for procedures that involve use of sedation or anesthesia, infection prevention and control, management of medications, and patient education and training.

"We are pleased to once again receive accreditation from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation," said GCHD Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mark Guidry. "This is yet another reassurance to our patients that our Coastal Health and Wellness Governing Board, physicians and staff have set an exceptionally standard for high quality care at our clinics."

Established in 1975, The Joint Commission's Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation program encourages high quality patient care in all types of freestanding ambulatory care facilities. An estimated 2,100 organizations currently maintain Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation, awarded for a three-year period.

"Joint Commission accreditation provides ambulatory care organizations with the processes contributing 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 Coastal Health and Wellness for its efforts to become a quality improvement organization, and achieving this pinnacle demonstrating a commitment to patient safety and quality.”

The Joint Commission’s ambulatory health care standards are developed in consultation with health care 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.

Coastal Health and Wellness operates two clinics, located in Texas City and Galveston. Each accepts many major insurance plans, offers same-day appointments and discounted rates for eligible uninsured residents. CHW provides primary care, pediatrics, counseling and dental care. Mobile clinic services are offered in the Bacliff and Bolivar communities.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling (409) 938-2234 or (281) 309-0255. More information on clinic locations and services can be found at www.coastalHW.org.

About the Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission 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 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including hospitals and health care organizations that provide ambulatory and office-based surgery, behavioral health, home care, laboratory and nursing home services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. The Joint Commission has two nonprofit affiliate organizations: The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare aims to solve health care’s most critical safety and quality problems and Joint Commission Resources (JCR) provides consulting services, educational services and publications. Joint Commission International, a division of JCR, accredits and certifies international health care organizations. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

About Coastal Health and Wellness Coastal Health & Wellness (CHW) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care, counseling, and dental services for Galveston County residents through federal and county funding along with patient fees. Under federal guidelines, an 11 member policy-making board, comprised of a consumer majority, sets policies for the clinics. Board policies and fees are located at www.gchd.org. CHW operations are executed by the Galveston County Health District which also oversees EMS and other traditional public health services. Having a FQHC in Galveston County leverages county dollars funding indigent primary healthcare. Learn more about CHW at www.CoastalHW.org.

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