

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. HEALTH CENTER  
AWARDED AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE ACCREDITATION  
FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION**

(Albany, NY) Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center announced today that it has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for [Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation](#) by demonstrating continuous compliance with its 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.

Whitney Young Health underwent a rigorous, on-site survey in April of 2015. 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.

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 Whitney Young Health for

its efforts to become a quality improvement organization, and achieving this pinnacle demonstrating a commitment to patient safety and quality.”

“Whitney Young Health is pleased to receive accreditation from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation,” added David Shippee, CEO, Whitney Young Health Center. “Staff from across the organization continue to work together to develop and implement approaches and strategies that have the potential to improve care for the patients in our community.”

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.

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#### **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 nearly 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](http://www.jointcommission.org).

#### **Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center, Inc.**

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center, Inc. is a community based, 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation that provides much needed primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care to some of the most vulnerable populations in our community. Through two medical and dental centers, three school-based health centers, two addictions programs, and numerous outreach programs, WYH serves nearly 20,000 men, women and children annually. Almost one-third of our patients live at or below the federal poverty level; more than a quarter do not have any health insurance; and more than half rely on Medicaid. WYH has been recognized, for a second time, by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home at both the Albany and Troy health centers. Our addictions programs are licensed by New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). WYH’s Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program is accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.wmyhealth.org](http://www.wmyhealth.org).