Welcome to 1975… the year the Ambulatory Care Accreditation Program was formed. Hear executive director, Michael Kulczycki, kick-off the recognition of the program’s 40-year history!

View Kick-off Message

The Accreditation Council for Ambulatory Health Care (AC/AHC) conducted its founding meeting May 9, 1975. Although an accreditation guideline for ambulatory care facilities was developed in 1973 and 1974, the Council did not evolve into an accreditation program until 1975.

The charter membership of AC/AHC was comprised of representatives from:

• American Hospital Association
• American Medical Association
• American Group Practice Association
• Group Health Association of America
• Medical Group Management Association

Originally formed to establish an accreditation program for group practices and “organized sources of delivery of care to recipients institutionalized for a period of 24 hours or less” – the Council didn’t yet contemplate accrediting individual medical office practices.

At that time, the American Group Practice Association (AGPA) was the only accreditor in the ambulatory health care field and the Council considered AGPA’s standards and survey procedures as guidelines in the preparation of its own standards and procedures. AC/AHC requested AGPA continue its program until such time as the Council’s own program became operational.

Group practice clinics interested in seeking accreditation with the new program were asked to apply for survey by writing directly to AC/AHC at JCAH (then named Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals) headquarters. AC/AHC began accreditation survey activity April 1, 1976.

The developmental stages of AC/AHC accreditation were supported in part by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

More About 1975…The Premier of AC/AHC and SNL

The Joint Commission

• The Accreditation Council appointed a committee to recruit a program director for AC/AHC. The program director’s principal duties were to serve as secretary to the Council, to keep the Council informed of program activities and JCAH matters, and to see that standards and procedures are developed and carry out Council directives.

• AC/AHC councilors and ten AGPA surveyors met at JCAH headquarters in downtown Chicago for the first in a series of training and planning sessions on surveyor behavior, survey procedures, and philosophy of the AC/AHC accreditation program.

The World

• President Ford escapes two assassination attempts
• Cost of first-class stamp: 10 cents
• Home videotape systems introduced (VCRs)
• NBA Championship held: Golden St. Warriors d. Washington Bullets (4-0)
• Saturday Night Live premieres on NBC - George Carlin hosts first show
• Best picture: The Godfather - Part II
• Other movie premieres: Jaws, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Dog Day Afternoon
• Song of the Year: “The Way We Were,” performed by Barbra Streisand

Recognizing 1975