

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: K'ima:w Medical Center maintains Health Care accreditation  
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K'ima:w Medical Center is proud to announce it has passed its' recent survey for continued Joint Commission (JC) accreditation. Nationally, the Joint Commission has accredited more than 2,100 freestanding ambulatory care organizations. Here in California, K'ima:w Medical Center is the only Tribal Health program currently accredited by the JC. The organization has worked to maintain this status since year 2000.

Joint Commission is recognized as the 'Gold Standard' of health care accreditation, and has nationally recognized benchmarks for quality patient care. Continued accreditation means that the organization has met these standards. K'ima:w regularly receives alerts and updates to these standards, and information about common areas of improvement. This allows K'ima:w to continually improve, adjust and re-evaluate their delivery of patient care. It also means that compliance issues are addressed as they arise and protocols are maintained for improvement.

JC accreditation covers 13 specific areas and specific requirements for quality and safety of patient care. The survey process includes "tracer activity" where the surveyor traces a patient through actual care, treatment and services (CTS) they received. Additionally, surveyors evaluate the environment of care and the facility's system to provide education and guidance so that staff continues to improve the organization's performance. This year the Behavioral Health program and services of K'ima:w Medical Center were included in their full survey. JC surveyor's recognized that the Behavioral Health staff was new to the process and impressed with their readiness for evaluation under JC standards.

With this latest JC survey, K'ima:w Medical Center chose the option of attaining JC Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) certification. The PCMH certification is consistent with the new federal health care reform efforts to improve health outcomes and the continuity, quality and efficiency of health care services. The patient-centered care relationship focuses on the whole person; understanding and respecting each patient's needs, culture, values and preferences. PCMH means moving from 'doctor-centered' to 'patient-centered' care using a team approach as a way to better support the patient's needs.

K'ima:w Medical Center is proud of its staff for upholding the standards required by the Joint Commission. Upon completion of the survey, facility staff, administration and the Governing Board received a final summary. During this year's final summary presentation, surveyors acknowledged K'ima:w staff for their commitment to the process, the facilities openness to learning, and the engagement and guidance from its leadership.

For more information please contact Glenna Moore - CEO, at K'ima:w Medical Center, (530) 625-4261.