

Barrow Hospital Accredited

BARROW — PHS Alaska Native Hospital has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) according to Richard Zitzow, Service Unit Director.

This accreditation, which covers from June, 1974 to June, 1976, is the result of an on-site survey made by field representatives of the Joint Commission's Hospital Accreditation Program (HAP).

Accreditation indicates that this facility has chosen to operate according to standards set by JCAH and that the facility has, in the main, met these standards.

The standards, published as the Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, set forth optimal achievable goals of excellence against which a facility can measure itself and be measured by the Joint Commission's survey.

PHS Alaska Native Hospital in Barrow is one of approximately 5,300 general hospitals throughout the United States that have earned this recognition. There are approximately 7,300 hospitals in the U.S.

The Joint Commission's accreditation surveys are voluntary. It is not legally necessary

for a hospital to be accredited, but health care facilities have sought accreditation because it represents a benchmark of quality that is higher than governmental licensure alone.

The chief aim of the Hospital Accreditation Program, one of four such programs under the JCAH umbrella, is to help hospitals in their pursuit of excellence and thereby provide a higher quality of care to patients.

The program also seeks to recognize, and to identify for the public, those facilities which meet its standards.

The Joint Commission began in 1918 under the auspices of the American College of Surgeons. It was incorporated in 1951 with the support of its present member organizations: the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physicians, the American Hospital Association, and the American Medical Association.

JCAH is a Chicago-based non-governmental, not-for-profit organization. In addition to hospitals, it has programs for the accreditation of long term care facilities, psychiatric facilities, and facilities for the mentally retarded.