



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

Attention: Health Service Organization CEOs, CFOs, Risk Managers and Accreditation Coordinators

HIROC's RMSAM™ Included In Accreditation Canada's New Accreditation Program

Toronto: May 10, 2008 – Accreditation Canada (formerly the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation -- CCHSA) and Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC) are pleased to announce the inclusion of references to HIROC's Risk Management Self-Appraisal Modules (RMSAM™) within Accreditation Canada's new accreditation program, "Qmentum".

HIROC's RMSAM™ is a practical web based self-appraisal tool used by healthcare organizations to identify risk areas requiring action and to prioritize action plans over a four year period. It emphasizes a proactive approach to identifying and managing diverse risk exposures with the added benefit of individual and team learning. Based on nearly 20 years of HIROC claims experience, RMSAM™ reflects preventable and costly issues that often result in incidents and claims reported by Canadian healthcare organizations

RMSAM™ is recognized in the "Governance" portion of the Accreditation Canada standards through reference to RMSAM™ in the section related to the governing body's role in working with senior management to identify risks to the organization. In the "Effective Organization" section a similar guideline appears related to an organization's requirement to define and coordinate a performance management system - and to use an integrated risk management approach to identify, report, assess and manage risks.

Inclusion of RMSAM™ into the new accreditation program reflects the continued strong relationship between Accreditation Canada and HIROC. The two organizations signed a partnership agreement in May 2005 aimed at assisting health service organizations and providers to manage risk, prevent adverse events, and ultimately improve patient safety.

"This collaborative approach to risk management reporting will meet each partner's requirements, minimize duplication and will help both organizations work more efficiently with hospitals/facilities across the country," said Wendy Nicklin, President and CEO of Accreditation Canada.

"Based on feedback from those who have used RMSAM™ it has proven to be a very valuable tool, and has assisted organizations in responding to Accreditation Canada requirements. We are therefore extremely happy that Accreditation Canada has recognized RMSAM™ in their new Qmentum program." said Eleanor Morton, HIROC's Vice President, Risk Management.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Peters, Accreditation Canada at 1-800-814-7769; or Joanna Noble, HIROC at 1-800-465-7357.