



## Major step in tackling infections globally to improve patient safety and bend the cost curve

(Ottawa, Canada – May 24, 2013) Accreditation Canada International (ACI) and the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada (CHICA-Canada) announced today a new partnership to develop an Advanced Infection Prevention and Control course for the international market. The session will be a three day, instructor led, onsite program that will focus on improving the knowledge and practice of health care organizations in their efforts to prevent and control health care-associated infections (HAI).

“Effective infection prevention and control programs and interventions have been shown to protect patients, their families and their communities,” said Bruce Gamage, President of CHICA-Canada. “ACI is well-known internationally as the Canadian organization of choice for its educational focus on health care quality improvement and patient safety programs. This partnership will enable CHICA-Canada to bring our extensive knowledge in infection prevention and control to healthcare providers around the world.”

According to a report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), health care-associated infections are often a leading cause of death and impose cost burdens on health care organizations worldwide.<sup>1</sup> While the total cost of health care-associated infections worldwide is difficult to quantify, the WHO estimates the cost in Europe alone to be approximately 7 billion euros.<sup>2</sup>

“ACI recognizes the contribution of expert organizations such as CHICA-Canada in the advancement of patient safety. We think this partnership will respond to the needs of health care organizations in their efforts to meet and surpass infection prevention and control best practices,” said Sébastien Audette, CEO of ACI. “The faculty line-up for this program is outstanding and will provide first hand expertise to our client organizations.” The launch of the session is planned for Fall 2013, after the session has been adapted for applicability to the international context.

### About Community and Hospital Control Association – Canada

CHICA-Canada (Community and Hospital Infection Control Association – Canada) is a multidisciplinary, professional organization for those engaged in the prevention and control of infections. CHICA was incorporated under the Canadian Corporation Act in 1976 and is a registered non-profit organization. CHICA has over 1700 members. CHICA–CANADA provides communication and education for those involved in infection control activities. Its goal is to prevent infections and as a result improve patient care and staff health in hospitals, other health care facilities, and the community.

### About Accreditation Canada International (ACI)

Accreditation Canada International ([www.internationalaccreditation.ca](http://www.internationalaccreditation.ca)) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that offers healthcare quality improvement services worldwide. ACI provides comprehensive and integrated international accreditation, education, and advisory services to governments, health services, and accreditation organizations to drive quality and to improve safety. ACI’s client-centered approach to service focuses on evidence-based standards and external peer review. ACI works with organizations to foster a dynamic

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/whocdscsreph200212.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/gpsc/country\\_work/gpsc\\_ccisc\\_fact\\_sheet\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gpsc/country_work/gpsc_ccisc_fact_sheet_en.pdf)

and improved health care environment, while creating a lasting culture of commitment to health care quality improvement.

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