

TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Timelines for Pilot and Implementation

Program Development: January 2005 – December 2006

Pilot tests: Spring to Fall 2007

Implementation Plan: Starting in 2008

Keeping in Touch

As progress continues and the new program evolves, information will be shared on CCHSA's website (www.cchsa-ccass.ca). Education and information sessions are also planned and will be available in Spring 2007.

Inquiries may be placed with your accreditation specialist or with CCHSA's project leader, Tracy Murphy at tracy.murphy@cchsa-ccass.ca.

Concluding Thoughts: A Look beyond the Findings

CCHSA has been accrediting health care organizations for close to 50 years. The program has expanded from acute care hospitals and long term care facilities in the early days to include new types of services such as aboriginal and child welfare services. CCHSA's vision is to be the leader in raising the bar for health quality throughout the health system. In 2006, 874 organizations were part of CCHSA's accreditation program showing that accreditation has stood the test of time. It is expected that with the continuous pressures on the health system, the information gleaned through involvement in accreditation will continue to be a valuable resource for health care providers, governments, and policy-makers.

CCHSA's philosophy of ongoing improvement is being used to inform its new accreditation program, which will be implemented in January 2008. This new program will allow CCHSA to better benchmark data while continuing to focus on quality and safety. It will contain the following key components:

- Separate standards for Governance and Leadership functions
- Integration of Human Resources, Information Management, and Environment standards into other standard areas
- Greater focus on populations, such as chronically ill and age-based groups
- New standards for high risk areas, including Medication Management, Laboratory, Diagnostic Imaging, and Operating Room

- Strengthened reference to primary health care through public health and chronic disease management
- Streamlined process to facilitate the use of accreditation as an ongoing quality improvement tool

Organizations, surveyors, and staff will continue to play key roles in promoting and implementing the new program, while maintaining the focus on CCHSA's primary purpose – to help health service organizations define, measure, report, and improve their quality of care and service.

The *2007 Canadian Health Accreditation Report* compares performance from year to year, and shows the impact of health system renewal on organizations providing care and service to the Canadian population and the common trends resulting. The trends observed through accreditation data are significantly aligned with current issues faced by health care organizations and governments. These synergies provide consistent direction to health care organizations in their ongoing efforts to address health care priorities. Health service organizations continue to strive to provide care in a safe, efficient, and effective manner. CCHSA is in a unique position to monitor quality objectively and from an external perspective, thus contributing to the ongoing quality improvement of health care services in Canada.

