Announcement: CorHealth Ontario and the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare transfer the Echocardiography Quality Improvement Program

April 1, 2020: Today, CorHealth Ontario (CorHealth) is transferring the Echocardiography Quality Improvement (EQI) Program to the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH).

IQMH, a not-for-profit corporation, is Canada’s largest provider of medical laboratory accreditation and proficiency testing. With its goal to improve quality healthcare in Canada and around the world, IQMH is well positioned to assume the oversight and execution of the EQI Program.

CorHealth will continue supporting the EQI Program through the setting and maintenance of policies, standards, and clinical guidance related to the quality of echocardiography services. IQMH is taking responsibility for the management and operation of the EQI Program, including the implementation of the accreditation program. The entire team of EQI experts at CorHealth are transferring to IQMH to ensure a seamless transition and continued stability of the EQI Program on April 1, 2020.

"With assessments and related accreditation decisions for the initial cohort of echocardiography service registrants approaching completion, the opportunity arose for us to assess the future of the Program with the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH)," says Sheila Jarvis, CEO, CorHealth. "The transition will allow CorHealth the opportunity to focus on our core mandate and expertise by ensuring that current best practices of echocardiography services are always reflected in the Standards for Provision of Echocardiography in Ontario (the Standards)."

"The success of the EQI Program is important to patients, their families, and current and future providers of echocardiography services in Ontario. This transition will ensure the long-term success of the EQI Program," says Dr. Anthony Sanfilippo, Chair, EQI Advisory Panel, Cardiologist, Kingston General Hospital, and Associate Dean, Undergraduate of Medical Education at Queen’s University. "CorHealth and IQMH’s commitment to continual quality improvement, positive impact on patient safety, and outcomes will continue to drive the EQI Program."

"We have established expertise in accreditation and quality assurance processes," says Jeff Sumner, President, IQMH. "We look forward to the opportunity to take on the implementation of the EQI Program and are committed to the goal of providing the highest quality of echocardiography services to patients in Ontario."
The EQI Program will continue for those sites currently in the process of pursuing accreditation. CorHealth and IQMH will begin the next phase, which includes updating the Standards and exploring potential refinements to the ongoing accreditation process. Currently, the program is entirely funded by the MOH; however, as part of the transition, planning is underway with the MOH to develop a future cost recovery model supported by EQI Program participants aimed at ensuring ongoing quality improvement and the future sustainability of the EQI Program in Ontario.

**About CorHealth Ontario**

As of June 22, 2017, we are CorHealth Ontario, an organization formed by the merger of the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario and the Ontario Stroke Network, with an expanded mandate spanning cardiac, stroke and vascular programs through the entire course of care including secondary prevention, rehabilitation and recovery. CorHealth Ontario proudly advises the Ministry of Health, hospitals, and care providers to improve the quality, efficiency, accessibility and equity of cardiac, stroke, and vascular services for patients across Ontario. For more information, visit [corhealthontario.ca](http://corhealthontario.ca).

**About Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare**

The Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare is a not-for-profit corporation, and a controlled affiliate of Accreditation Canada (AC)/Health Standards Organization (HSO) that offers accreditation and proficiency testing of diagnostic services, and related education services through its three independent Centres. Its services have achieved world-wide recognition — the Centre for Proficiency Testing is accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation; and the Centre for Accreditation is a signatory of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation — thereby demonstrating its ability to meet rigorous international standards for quality and competence. Learn more at [www.iqmh.org](http://www.iqmh.org).

**EQI Program Inquiries**

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