

## **NORTH TEXAS HOSPITAL SELECTS NEW QUALITY-BASED ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FROM DNV HEALTHCARE**

Denton, TX, January 12, 2011 – North Texas Hospital today announces that it will be enacting a new quality-based accreditation program from DNV Healthcare.

DNV's NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> service is the first new federally-approved accreditation program in more than 30 years, and offers North Texas Hospital the opportunity to simultaneously satisfy its Medicare accreditation requirements and implement the ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

"This is more than a new accreditation program, it's a catalyst for our ongoing commitment to patient safety and clinical quality," says Pam White, CNE. "With NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> we can achieve full ISO compliance and satisfy our annual accreditation requirements at the same time, for no additional cost. Quite literally it is a win-win for us, our patients, and our community."

ISO 9001 is recognized by businesses around the world as the benchmark for continual quality improvement. Innovative hospitals have started embracing ISO as a way to identify and focus on the most successful approaches to patient care, billing and other critical aspects of running a modern hospital.

### **Why Accreditation Matters to Healthcare Consumers**

Accreditation can directly affect the quality of your hospital care. Why? Because while undergoing the accreditation process a hospital makes critical decisions about how it treats diseases, stores medications, allocates nurse staffing, and conducts billing and reimbursement.

In short, accreditation impacts the way hospitals operate.

By law hospitals must be accredited by a Medicare-approved accreditation program in order to be reimbursed for care provided to patients covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Without it, most hospitals would only be able to provide care for a small fraction of the community they now serve.

The new DNV NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> program is not only a new option for accreditation; it is an entirely new approach to accreditation. NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> focuses not simply on auditing the hospital's business processes but on finding better ways to do things in every department.

"The key thing about NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> that we're finding is its ability to break down silos within the organization, and to promote the best ideas no matter where they come from," says Judith Schiros, CEO. "On the one hand, NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> is very familiar to hospitals that have been doing Medicare accreditation, at the same time it's a whole new experience using accreditation as a proactive business tool. It's a very welcomed change and is definitely a positive step for North Texas Hospital."

DNV NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> was approved by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Sept. 26, 2008.

NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> accreditation protocols closely follow the Medicare Conditions of Participation and require North Texas Hospital to become fully ISO 9001compliant within two years. DNV surveyors will visit the hospital on regular annual intervals to help ensure progress against specific organizational goals.

### **About North Texas Hospital**

North Texas Hospital is an acute care physician owned surgical hospital, specializing in minimally invasive surgery, utilizing the latest technology, one being the da Vinci Robotic System. North Texas Hospital raised the bar on the standard of care in North Texas by leading out with the da Vinci Robotic System, on August 1, 2007. Physicians travel to NTH from countries as far as Russia, Hungary, and England to observe experts in this field of medicine. The hospital has been ranked 9<sup>th</sup> for overall patient satisfaction in the state of Texas according to a recent report based upon data provided to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The hospital provides a boutique-like atmosphere with personalized and excellent patient care being priority one. For more information about the hospital contact: Debbie Corlee at [dcorlee@northtexashospital.com](mailto:dcorlee@northtexashospital.com).

### **About DNV Healthcare**

DNV Healthcare Inc. is a division of DNV, an independent foundation dedicated to safeguarding life, property and the environment. DNV (<http://www.dnv.com>) has 300 offices in 100 different countries. For more information about the NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> hospital accreditation program, visit <http://www.dnv.com/industry/healthcare>.

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