



**For Immediate Release**

## **Medicare to Review New Hospital Accreditation Program**

### **TÜV Healthcare Specialists Completes Application for Medicare “Deeming Authority”**

**Danvers, Massachusetts, December 12, 2005** – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has begun formal evaluation of the just-completed application by TÜV Healthcare Specialists (TÜVHS) to become the first new accreditation service for U.S. hospitals in 40 years.

If granted full deeming authority in the coming months, TÜVHS will not only accredit hospitals (deem them in compliance with Medicare’s Conditions of Participation) but will introduce the breakthrough management disciplines of ISO 9001 to help reverse declining quality indicators in healthcare.

Each year, quality lapses in healthcare delivery exact a staggering financial and human toll. Inefficiency and mistakes cost each American \$1,200 to \$2,500 every year<sup>1</sup>; and prescription errors – a preventable lapse in quality control – cause 25,000 deaths annually.<sup>2</sup>

Responsibility for accrediting hospitals was first conveyed to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) in 1965. The Joint Commission, a private non-profit organization, today accredits the overwhelming majority of hospitals in the United States.

“Choice and competition are the hallmarks of a free market,” says Rebecca Wise, CEO of TÜVHS. “Can you think of an industry with a more profound impact on our lives than healthcare? Yet there is a much higher chance of you getting the wrong dosage of medicine in a hospital than there is of a manufacturer putting the wrong chip on a circuit board. It’s a failure of the system, not the people.”

The escalating burden of meeting regulatory and compliance demands has made it even harder for hospitals to focus on systematic quality improvement.

“Healthcare providers are so inundated with compliance and regulatory obligations that they can’t spare the resources to pursue quality as a separate ‘project.’ Quality management needs to be seamless and self-regulating. That is the advantage of ISO 9001 versus all other quality initiatives,” adds Ms. Wise.

TÜVHS has already begun providing full ISO 9001 implementation to hospitals and medical group practices. Any institution can choose to incorporate the Medicare audit upon approval of TÜVHS’s full deeming authority. In the future, achieving ISO certification will be a precondition of TÜVHS’s Medicare accreditation program.

#### **About TÜV Healthcare Specialists Inc.**

TÜV Healthcare Specialists (THS), headquartered in Cincinnati, OH, is an innovative healthcare management systems evaluation, accreditation, and training company. THS joins two quality-focused organizations in offering the [NIAHO<sup>SM</sup>](#) hospital accreditation program to healthcare organizations throughout the world. NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> is the acronym for the National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations. The NIAHO<sup>SM</sup> accreditation program is the first Integrated Accreditation <sup>SM</sup> program in the United States.

THS has identified that in order to truly improve healthcare, hospitals need to implement a quality management system that adheres to the international [ISO 9001](#) standard. Organizations that use the ISO 9001 certification process can dramatically improve their management system, resulting in improved patient safety and operational performance. NIAHO <sup>SM</sup> is the first organization to provide hospital accreditation services utilizing the international ISO 9001 standard.



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**About TÜV America Inc.**

TÜV America Inc., a subsidiary of TÜV SÜD Group, a global quality and safety organization, employs over 200 professionals throughout the NAFTA region, including Danvers (MA), New Brighton (MN), San Diego (CA), San Ramon (CA), Monterrey (Mexico), Cambridge (Canada) and many additional locations. TÜV America offers a wide range of services through the globally recognized brand names of TÜV Product Service, Management Service and Industry Service.

TÜV's Management Service division is an internationally recognized certification organization providing management system certification services as a leading ISO 9001 Registrar in North America, Asia and Europe. Headquartered in Danvers, Massachusetts, the organization maintains a full-time audit staff in over a dozen locations throughout North America offering a full suite of management system services, including: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO/TS 16949, AS9100, ISO 13485, ESD S20.20, OHSAS 18001, HACCP, ISO 17799 and other auditing services. Globally, TÜV has issued over 190,000 product and 30,000 quality management system certifications.

<sup>1</sup> "First Aid for Health Care," *Quality Digest*, December 2003.

<sup>2</sup> "Message to Physicians: Better Read than Dead," *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, October 25, 2000.

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