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**JOINT ACCREDITATION FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION™
PROGRAM REACHES MILESTONE: FIRST PROVIDERS RECEIVE REACCREDITATION**

Institute for Healthcare Improvement and VHA Inc. Awarded Reaccreditation as Providers of Continuing Education for Healthcare Teams

Chicago, IL and Silver Spring, MD – September 9, 2014 – The [Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™](#) program is proud to announce that the first two continuing education (CE) providers to be jointly accredited have now received reaccreditation.

The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement \(IHI\)](#) and [VHA Inc.](#) became the first two organizations to receive joint accreditation in 2010 as providers of continuing education for healthcare teams. These two organizations have now become the first to receive reaccreditation—a milestone for interprofessional continuing education.

Launched in 2009, Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education is a collaboration of the [Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education \(ACCME\)](#), the [Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education \(ACPE\)](#), and the [American Nurses Credentialing Center \(ANCC\)](#). The first and only program of its kind, Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education establishes the standards for organizations to deliver CE planned by the healthcare team, for the healthcare team. Joint Accreditation promotes interprofessional education (IPE) activities specifically designed to improve interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) in healthcare delivery.

Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education offers organizations the opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide medical, nursing, and pharmacy continuing education through a single, unified application, fee structure, set of accreditation standards, and review process. There are now [15 jointly accredited providers](#). Jointly accredited providers have substantially increased the number of interprofessional educational activities they offer to health professionals and have achieved measurable improvements in team performance and patient care.

Accredited Providers' Comments on Receiving Accreditation for Second Term

Don Goldmann, MD, Chief Medical and Scientific Officer, IHI, says being named a jointly accredited provider for four more years has wide-ranging benefit: “IHI believes that we need strong interprofessional teams to accelerate progress in improving health and healthcare. It’s in that spirit that we plan our programs, and we are thrilled to have ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC’s renewed recognition of our offerings in order to accelerate learning among physicians, nurses, and pharmacists alike.”

“VHA Inc. is very pleased to receive six years joint accreditation for interprofessional education programming from ACCME, ACPE, and ANCC because it helps demonstrate our mission to consistently deliver expert guidance and solutions that drive exceptional performance for members,” said **VHA Inc.**

Executive Vice-President Colleen Risk. “Through our Continuing Education program we are helping clinicians included in a healthcare team close the gap between current practice and leading practice to produce better patient care and outcomes.”

Accreditors’ Comments on Joint Accreditation

“We congratulate the Institute for Healthcare improvement and VHA Inc. for achieving this milestone in interprofessional continuing education. As the first two organizations to achieve joint accreditation in 2010 and reaccreditation in 2014, they have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to advancing interprofessional education and collaborative practice. We created Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education with our colleague accreditors because we believe that accredited continuing education for the healthcare team contributes to healthcare improvement for patients and their communities. We commend all the jointly accredited providers for their dedication to delivering effective, relevant healthcare education by the team, for the team.”—**Murray Kopelow, MD, President and CEO, ACCME**

“ACPE applauds the continued commitment of the **Institute for Healthcare Improvement and VHA Inc.** to advance interprofessional education by developing and delivering high-quality education programs ‘by the team for the team.’ Prioritizing interprofessional education through the Joint Accreditation process fosters collaboration among healthcare professionals and enhances patient care.”—**Peter H. Vlasses, PharmD, DSc (Hon.) and Executive Director ACPE**

“Sustaining a culture that embraces interprofessional continuing education as a strategy to improve interprofessional collaborative practice is critical to developing a healthcare workforce that delivers safe, high-quality patient care. IHI and VHA Inc. demonstrate and support that commitment.”—**Kathy Chappell, PhD, RN, Vice-President, Accreditation Program and Institute for Credentialing Research, ANCC**



About The Institute for Healthcare Improvement

IHI is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, we have partnered with visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Recognized as an innovator, convener, trustworthy partner, and driver of results, we are the first place to turn for expertise, help, and encouragement for anyone, anywhere who wants to change health and health care profoundly for the better. When it comes to raising the quality of health for all, IHI sees boundless possibilities, and while we see the walls in front of us, we will not rest until we reach the other side. Learn more at ihi.org.



About VHA Inc.

VHA Inc. is a national network of not-for-profit health care organizations working together to improve performance and efficiency in clinical, financial and operational management. Since 1977, when VHA established the first hospital membership organization, the company has applied its knowledge in analytics, contracting, consulting and network development to help members and customers achieve their strategic objectives. In 2013, VHA delivered \$2.2 billion in savings and additional value to members. Serving approximately 5,000 health system members and affiliates, VHA represents more than a quarter of the nation's hospitals. VHA also serves more than 118,000 non-acute health care customers enterprise-wide. VHA is based in Irving, Texas, and has 12 regional offices across the U.S. VHA, together with UHC, owns Novation, a supply chain company, and aptitude™, the health care industry's first online direct contracting market. VHA also owns Provista, a supply chain company serving the non-acute market as well as hospitality, education and corporate markets. For more information, visit www.vha.com and follow us on Twitter (@VHAInc).

About Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™

Launched in 2009, Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education is a collaboration of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Joint Accreditation promotes interprofessional continuing education specifically designed to improve interprofessional collaborative practice in healthcare delivery. A leading model for interprofessional collaborative practice, Joint Accreditation establishes the standards for education providers to deliver continuing education planned by the healthcare team for the healthcare team.

This innovation promotes interprofessional education that leads to improved healthcare delivery and better patient outcomes. Joint Accreditation enables providers to achieve distinction from three leading healthcare continuing education accreditors; increase operational efficiency, saving time, money, and resources; provide continuing education for physicians, pharmacists, or nurses separately or together; and improve collaboration and reduce hierarchies among healthcare professions.

Jointly accredited continuing education providers must meet rigorous standards for educational quality and independence—including the [ACCME Standards for Commercial SupportSM: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities](#). With Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education, the ACCME, the ACPE, and the ANCC seek to assure the public that healthcare teams receive education that is designed to be independent, free from commercial bias, based on valid content, and effective in improving the quality and safety of care delivered by the team.

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Joint Accreditation Speaking Engagements

Joint Accreditation executive leaders are available for speaking engagements to discuss the opportunities for continuing education to advance interprofessional education and collaborative practice through the Joint Accreditation program. For more information, please contact:

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ACCME

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME[®]) is a nonprofit organization based in Chicago that is responsible for accrediting institutions that offer continuing medical education through a voluntary, self-regulatory system. The ACCME also has a system for recognizing state medical societies as accreditors for local organizations offering CME.

The ACCME's mission is to identify, develop, and promote standards for quality continuing medical education that improves healthcare for patients and their communities. There are approximately 2,000 accredited CME providers within the ACCME accreditation system, whose activities educate more than 24 million healthcare practitioner participants annually.

The ACCME's member organizations, which represent the profession of medicine and include physician licensing and credentialing bodies, are the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association for Hospital Medical Education, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the US, Inc.

For more information, visit www.accme.org.



About the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

ACPE is the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. In collaboration with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, ACPE accredits pharmacy technician education and training programs. ACPE also offers evaluation and certification of professional degree programs internationally. The mission of ACPE is to assure and advance excellence in education for the profession of pharmacy. ACPE is an autonomous and independent agency whose Board of Directors is derived through the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), and the American Council on Education (ACE). To learn more about ACPE, visit www.acpe-accredit.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).



The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. The ANCC Credentialing Knowledge Center™ offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials.

The ANCC Accreditation program recognizes the importance of high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE) and skills-based competency programs. Around the world, ANCC-accredited organizations provide nurses with the knowledge and skills to help improve care and patient outcomes. To learn more about ANCC visit www.nursecredentialing.org.

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