



## News Release

October 6, 2011

### **Health Quality Council of Alberta committed to integrity of process for independent review**

#### ***Process will not be compromised under any circumstances at any time***

(Calgary, AB)...Over the past week there have been numerous references to the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA)'s ongoing review of the quality of care and safety of patients requiring access to emergency department care and cancer surgery and the role and process of physician advocacy. The review is being conducted by the Quality Assurance Committee of the HQCA under section 9 of the *Alberta Evidence Act*.

Recent comments in the media appear to infer that the HQCA has reached some conclusions regarding the review. These comments are speculative in nature, are not true and could undermine the quality and integrity of the review. Responding to the comments, Dr. John Cowell, chief executive officer of the HQCA, said it is regrettable that this could have been inferred as the HQCA quality assurance team conducting the review would under no circumstances share or imply anything until a public report is released.

"The HQCA team that is conducting this review has committed to everyone we have interviewed that we would never reveal with whom we have spoken or any of the information they have entrusted to us," says Cowell. "I want to assure everyone who has participated in the review and indeed all Albertans that the HQCA is committed to the integrity of the review process. I also want to assure them that the review process will not be compromised in any way under any circumstances."

Cowell adds that participation in the review has been outstanding. The HQCA will issue a second progress report related to the review on October 27, 2011 and the full report will be released early in 2012.

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*The HQCA gathers and analyzes information and collaborates with Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Health Services, health professions, academia and other stakeholders to translate that knowledge into practical improvements to health service quality and patient safety in the health care system. The HQCA is a corporation created in 2006 by the Health Quality Council of Alberta Regulation under the Regional Health Authorities Act.*

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