Vendor Credentialing Program Update

As you are aware, the Healthcare Supply Chain Network (HSCN) ceased to operate as of June 30, 2020. As part of this process, HSCN’s leadership actively worked with other parties to identify solutions that would enable the continuation of key HSCN services and offerings. The HSCN solution for Vendor Credentialing was identified by stakeholders as one of the offerings carrying high value.

HSCN was pleased to announce that Health Standards Organization (HSO) and Accreditation Canada (AC) would be taking over as the solution provider and administrator of the HSCN Vendor Credentialing Program (VCP), including the HSCN Standard, the Registry and online training course.

HSCN chose HSO and AC because of their independence, their reputation for ensuring quality and safety of healthcare organizations across Canada and around the world, and for their vision for what the program can become. As such, HSO and AC will continue to support the Vendor Credentialing Program in its current state for the first year or so. We acknowledge that with the transfer of the Program:

- The HSCN Standard is not yet an HSO Standard; and
- that the Standard and Program will undergo a review by HSO/AC as we anticipate changes to the Standard and Program in the future based on consultation with key stakeholders.

The HSCN National Standard for Vendor Credentialing was developed by a committee of Providers and Suppliers from across Canada in 2013. The Standard makes Vendors responsible for ensuring and attesting that their employees who call on healthcare facilities meet the Standard. We encourage you to continue to participate in the program and help shape the next chapter of Canada’s vendor credentialing standard and program.

HSO and AC are two affiliated, not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations that help people around the world save and improve lives. HSO develops world-class evidence-based standards, assessment programs and quality improvement solutions. HSO has been recognized as a National Standard Development Organization (SDO) by the Standards Council of Canada and is the only SDO in Canada solely focused on developing evidence-based health and social service-related standards. AC delivers a wide range of high impact assessment and recognition programs powered by HSO and customized to local needs.

Since acquiring the Vendor Credentialing Program on July 1, 2020, HSO/AC has put in place the structures, processes and mechanisms to maintain the Program in its current state. The graphic below illustrates the activities completed to date and
planned activities for the remainder of 2020 as we continue to collectively define and scope the Phase 2 roadmap for the enhanced Vendor Credentialing Program.

A Phased Approach: Key Phases, Timeline, Activities

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<tr>
<th>Program Transition</th>
<th>Phase 1: Program Maintenance ‘As-is’</th>
<th>Phase 2: TBD</th>
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**Activities**
- Selection of HSO/AC as the ‘new home’ of the Vendor Credentialing Program per vote by HSCN & Medtech members
- HSCN-HSO/AC Transfer Agreement signed
- IMC-HSO/AC License Agreement signed
- Engagement with Medtech Canada
- Communications released by HSCN & Medtech re: Program transition to HSO/AC

- Transition of program & processes including HSCN Standard and continued fulfillment for vendors attestation against the HSCN Standard
- Continued cooperation with IMC re: access to voluntary training modules.
- Continued maintenance of a list of credentialled vendors
- Continued customer service including responding to vendor & health care facilities queries; processing new vendors; processing training requests
- Secure funds for ‘As-is’ program maintenance
- Establish transition committee in collaboration with Medtech re: co-design and inform future state Program
- Define Phase 2 roadmap, LOE and associated costs including Standard review & update. Program review & update, Program link to OnboardGi & software functionality

**Provided Resources**
- HSO transition team & legal counsel
- HSCN
- IMC
- Medtech Canada
- Client (Vendor & Health Care Institutions) organizations
- Key stakeholders

As a reminder, Vendor Credentialing attestations are required to be completed annually. If you have not yet updated your company attestation for the remainder of 2020 and 2021, we would request that you please do so. For more information on the Vendor Credentialing solution, including attestations, please use the following contact email: VendorCredentialing@healthstandards.org. You will receive a response from HSO/AC initiating the attestation process. HSO/AC will also provide you with a description of the National Standard, an information sheet pertaining to the Standard, the attestation form and the online learning instructions. There is no fee associated with the attestation process, however, if you feel that you require support to meet the requirements of the Standard, there is online training available for a fee which HSO/AC can help you access.

For more information, please contact:
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