

# KENYA ACCREDITATION SERVICE

(A STATUTORY ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT)



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*For Immediate Release*

## World Accreditation Day 2015

### ACCREDITATION: Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care

**Nairobi, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015.** Today marks World Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and ILAC to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

World Accreditation Day provides an excellent opportunity for the accreditation community to extend its influence and demonstrate how accreditation can be applied to a wide variety of assessment, approval or evaluation tasks that can be used to address a wide range of health and social care requirements.

Health and social care's excellence is driven by the need to provide assurance and confidence to patients, families, regulators and health and social care providers. The role of accreditation in health and social care is to support this assurance;

- Accreditation means that the certification bodies certifying healthcare providers to leading management system standards, whether ISO 9001 to continuously support quality or ISO 13485 to ensure excellence in the provision of medical devices, are operating to global levels of assurance.
- Accreditation for medical/clinical laboratories based on global standards such as ISO 15189 demonstrates via a rigorous process to all stakeholders including health care providers, the technical competence of that laboratory, giving an international sign of assurance.
- Accredited clinical laboratories are able to ensure the international comparability, reliability, and equivalence of measurement results through the use of appropriate reference materials and methods thereby aiding improved patient care.
- Accredited certification to ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Management standard gives patients' confidence in those organisations handling their personal data – a vital element in health and social care provision.
- Accredited inspection for social care drives up standards, and provides assurance and confidence to customers and the public that the care provider has been independently inspected in their specific fields of expertise in social care such as dementia, learning difficulties, nursing, mental health, and domiciliary care, and is compliant with the rigorous standards used by the accredited inspection body.

KENAS, the sole national accreditation body, wishes to inform the public and other stakeholders in the health sector, that plans are underway for setting up an accreditation scheme against ISO/IEC 17021 for Certifying bodies who would certify health facilities against the standards such as Kenya Quality Health Model (KQMH), Safe Care (NHIF), ISO 9001, ISO 27001 etc.

This process involves the evaluation of results of assessments of Certifying Bodies (CBs) against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021 to determine whether the Certifying Body will be accredited; and thereafter providing an assessment report that attests to the technical competencies of the

Certifying Body. This report enables the CBs to create and implement action plans, continuing the cycle of ongoing quality improvement for the health facility / hospital.

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