

News Release

For immediate Release

MEDEC and ITAC Health Form a Collaboration to Advance Healthcare through Health Technology

(Toronto, April 12, 2010) On April 5, 2010 MEDEC and ITAC Health announced a collaboration agreement that will focus on improving health care and health outcomes for Canadians through health technology. The initial focus of the collaboration will be on ensuring Canadian health information and medical technology companies are aware of Health Canada's announcement regarding regulations for patient management software, helping them to understand the medical device licensing process and representing the concerns of industry to Health Canada.

Technologies that improve health outcomes and the efficiency of our healthcare system are critical in today's health care environment. Canada invests in health information and communication technologies (ICTs), however, the investment falls well short of the benchmark 4 per cent that many developed nations are at or moving towards. Canada needs to increase its investment in ICTs.

Medical technology such as traditional devices and diagnostic tools help save the lives of patients in Canada by improving the accuracy of diagnoses, enhancing treatments and cure of diseases, reducing long-term disabilities and helping to provide better medical care. Covering a wide range of products, medical device examples include pacemakers, artificial heart valves, hip implants, synthetic skin, scalpels, medical laboratory diagnostic instruments and test kits for diagnosis.

Information and communications technology is becoming an important enabler of health reform. Interoperable electronic health records, telemedicine, chronic disease registries and wait times management systems are key to a sustainable publicly funded healthcare system.

MEDEC and ITAC Health will collaborate initially on patient management software. In late summer 2009, Health Canada announced its intention to enforce regulations intended to manage the risks to patients when patient management software is used in patient care. Software falls within the definition of the term "medical device" when it is either sold stand-alone for the purposes given in the definition of a device (Patient Management Software) or used as a component to a device. This collaboration will help to ensure a smooth transition for ICT vendors to this new regulated environment.

ITAC Health

ITAC Health promotes the role its members can play in establishing the Canadian healthcare industry as a global leader. ITAC Health serves its members as a collective voice to healthcare professionals, government representatives, researchers, and healthcare consumers, and as a conduit for those stake-

holders to leverage the members' ability to facilitate the Canadian healthcare system as a "model of excellence" for healthcare systems around the world. Through collaboration, ITAC Health and its members work with healthcare stakeholders to improve the health of Canadians and the efficiency of the Canadian healthcare system through the implementation of information and communications technologies. For more information contact Brendan Seaton, President, ITAC Health at 905-602-8345, ext. 242 or visit the ITAC Health website www.itac.ca/index.php?/health

MEDEC

MEDEC is the national association created by and for the Canadian medical device, technology and diagnostics industry. MEDEC is the primary source for advocacy, information and education on the medical technology industry for members, the greater healthcare community, industry partners and the general public. Our goals are to advance health outcomes for patients in Canada and the growth and vibrancy of the industry in Canada. We focus on ensuring access to proven, safe technology and new, innovative medical technology developed by our member companies.

-30-

For further information contact bseaton@itac.ca or visit our website at www.itac.ca.