Coalition for Quality & Patient Safety
of Chicagoland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2009

Contact: Martin Hatlie, CEO
Phone: 312-906-6196; Email: mhatlie_cqps@iomc.org
www.cqps.org

Coalition for Quality and Patient Safety of Chicagoland Announces Agreement with ECRI Institute PSO to Start Reporting System

CHICAGO (May 14) – The Coalition for Quality and Patient Safety of Chicagoland (CQPS), announced today it has reached an agreement with ECRI Institute Patient Safety Organization (PSO) to implement a Chicago-based PSO dedicated to improving safety and quality of care in the Chicago metro region. The new PSO program will provide patient safety data collection, reporting and analysis to hospitals and other healthcare organizations. The Chicagoland PSO will kickoff at a June 3, 2009 CQPS Summit, and become operational during the 3rd quarter of 2009.

"A PSO has the potential to measurably advance safety and quality by aggregating large numbers of reports, analyzing them for common causes or risk factors, and feeding back solutions to all hospitals and other healthcare organizations that participate," said Martin J. Hatlie, CEO of the Coalition. "The benefit for patients is faster implementation of lessons learned by our healthcare providers and better treatment outcomes for us," added Hatlie.

The CQPS mission is to mobilize the diverse healthcare stakeholders in metropolitan Chicago to provide the best possible care to every patient every time by eliminating preventable harm and implementing systemic change to ensure consistent excellence**.**

"We are pleased to work with CQPS PSO and support its commitment to promoting a community culture of safety in healthcare in the Chicago area," said Ronni Solomon, Esq., executive vice president and general counsel, ECRI Institute. "We look forward to sharing the knowledge ECRI Institute has built based on four decades of patient safety experience, plus success in implementing the first state-wide error reporting system for Pennsylvania," adds Solomon.

ECRI Institute is an independent nonprofit organization that researches best approaches to improving patient care. Among other programs, ECRI Institute operates the "back office" of the State of Pennsylvania's patient safety reporting system, a model for the nation, and will play a similar role for the Chicagoland PSO. CQPS will coordinate its PSO and other patient safety efforts with provider organizations as well as the Institute of Medicine of Chicago the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, other Illinois-based hospital and primary care associations, public health agencies, consumer advocates, and other patient safety and quality improvement stakeholders and existing patient safety collaboratives across the state.

Enabled by the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, PSOs are voluntary reporting systems that legally protect the data they receive from being used for anything other than learning and benchmarking. The CQPS PSO is among the first to be certified by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ), the agency within the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services charged with developing and overseeing the PSO program.

The CQPS Summit on June 3 will be held at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago. Speakers include Ms. Solomon, ECRI Institute, and Amy Helwig, MD, Medical Director, AHRQ. The Summit will include interactive working sessions for those interested in learning more about the CQPS PSO. All stakeholders are welcome to attend. There is no registration fee. Summit registration material and more information can be found at http://www.cqps.org/events/2009_Summit/CQPS_2009_Summit.htm.

###

About Coalition for Quality & Patient Safety of Chicagoland
CQPS is the signature program of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago. It is housed within the offices of Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council. Its approach is collaborative and its mission is to provide the best possible care to every patient every time by eliminating preventable harm and implementing systemic change to ensure consistent excellence. CQPS has attained listing by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a federal Patient Safety Organization under the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. For more information, visit http:www.cqps.org.

About ECRI Institute®
For 40 years, ECRI Institute's work in patient safety, adverse event reporting and analysis, and the development of recommendations has improved patient care at hospitals and other providers around the world. ECRI Institute has a long history of investigating events and publishing authoritative risk reduction strategies. ECRI Institute is designated as an Evidence-based Practice Center by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and a Collaborating Center for Patient Safety, Risk Management, and Healthcare Technology by the World Health Organization. ECRI Institute PSO is a component of ECRI Institute. The ECRI Institute PSO reporting platform is powered by rL Solutions (http://www.rl-solutions.com), a leading software company with deep experience in adverse event reporting. For more information about ECRI Institute, visit https://www.ecri.org.

About Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AHRQ is the nation's lead federal agency for research on healthcare quality, cost, outcomes and patient safety. The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 authorized the creation of Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) to reduce the incidence of events that adversely affect patients. PSOs are designed to improve the quality and safety of U.S. health care by encouraging clinicians and health care organizations to voluntarily report and share data on patient safety events without fear of legal discovery. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) administers the provisions of the Patient Safety Act dealing with PSO operations. For more information, visit http://www.pso.ahrq.gov.

222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1900 · Chicago, Illinois 60606 · 312.906.6196
312.906.6123 fax E-Mail: cqps@iomc.org www.CQPS.org