



NEWS RELEASE

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**CIAO Seminars
Receives Accreditation for the VitalStim Therapy Specialty Certificate Program
from the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE)**

WASHINGTON (May 20, 2015)— CIAO Seminars' VitalStim Therapy Specialty Certificate Program has been recently accredited through ICE.

Founded in 1999, CIAO is a professional organization providing education, competency assessment, and ethics requirements for allied health professionals. In February of 2003, CIAO began training dysphagia therapists in VitalStim Therapy. More than 11 million people in the United States suffer from dysphagia (difficulty or inability to swallow). Currently, more than 20,000 Dysphagia Therapists in 40 countries have been awarded the VitalStim Therapy Specialty Certificate. VitalStim Therapy is a revolutionary treatment approach which uses neuro-muscular electrical stimulation in conjunction with traditional dysphagia therapy. Approved VitalStim assessment based training is required to provide VitalStim Therapy. Patients and physicians should refer to the VitalStim Registry to find a qualified VitalStim Provider in their area.

CIAO Seminars, the exclusive provider of VitalStim training, received ICE accreditation of its VitalStim Therapy Specialty Certificate Program by proving the program's compliance with *ICE 1100 – Standard for Assessment-Based Certificate Programs*. *ICE 1100* was first published in 2009 as the first standard for assessment-based certificate programs. It is an American National Standard (ANS), and ICE is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a standards developer.

Established in 1977, the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) (formerly the National Organization for Competency Assurance) is the leading international organization representing credentialing entities. ICE fulfills its mission through validating education and training programs, in setting quality standards for credentialing, and by providing accreditation services.

ICE is located at 2025 M Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036-3309; telephone 202/367-1165; facsimile 202/367-2165; website www.credentialingexcellence.org.

CIAO Seminars is located at 362 Gulf Breeze Pkwy. #193 in Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561; telephone 850/916-8886; website www.ciaoseminars.com. The VitalStim Registry can be located at www.vitalstimregistry.com.

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