This presentation will introduce the new national standard for health care facility design and construction: Z8000 Canadian Health Care Facilities. Expected for publication in fall 2011, this standard will influence every element of health care facility (HCF) planning, design, and construction in Canada. The presentation will give listeners the background they need to understand the new standard and how it will impact health care facility planning and design in Canada. Z8000 provides requirements and guidance for the planning, design, and construction of hospitals and other facilities in Canada. It is intended to be used by all facilities providing health care services regardless of type, size, location, or range of services. It was developed for use by architects, engineers, planning and project managers, contractors and builders, commissioning teams, facility managers, maintenance managers, infection prevention and control personnel, and other health care professionals.

The standard was developed to provide a consistent methodology and practical requirements for health care facilities (HCFs) across the country. It was developed as a common reference that Canadian authorities could adopt and enforce within their jurisdictions. As a national standard it provides a means for sharing best practice between provinces and regions, and between larger and smaller facilities. It also offers a common terminology and design approach, to improve communication between the organizations and individuals involved in HCF design and construction, to reduce construction errors, and to facilitate the movement of knowledge and skilled tradespeople between regions.

The following principles and objectives were considered throughout the development of Z8000:

- **Alignment** with Provincial, Federal or Territorial Ministries of Health and their specific governmental policy directives
- **Promotion of patient and family-centred care**, that includes individuals that are challenged by physical environments because of physical, psychological or other health related challenges
- **Integration of guiding principles** into the development of technical and functional programs;
- **Ensuring feasibility and flexibility** to meet future trends and changes in services and technologies
- **Promotion of environmentally responsible design** including acoustics, lighting, air quality, bio-hazardous waste removal, and energy usage alterations that do not compromise patient care or needs
- **Incorporation of human engineering design** into all aspects of the HCF as it relates to the patient, clinical providers, other staff and the general public at large (there is particular emphasis on privacy, confidentiality, safety, supportive work place features and effective operational requirements)
- **Facilitation of long term sustainable service delivery** for capital and operational expenditures using life cycle costing The presentation will explain how the standard is structured to follow a consistent, modular approach to HCF design, so that it can apply to either the development of an entire HCF, or to components within an HCF that are undergoing renovation or new construction.

The speakers will describe how Z8000 works with existing standards and codes by providing a set of overarching requirements for HCFs, and referencing out to specific standards and codes as appropriate. In this way it can serve as a central resource for planners, architects, engineers, health care administrators, and contractors. The presentation will also provide specifics on requirements relating to area design, functional relationships, and technical systems. Where appropriate the talk will outline how evidence-based design principles helped to shape these requirements.

This session enables attendees to:

- learn about Z8000 - the new national standard for health care facility design and construction;
- understand the planning and design approach it sets out for all health care facilities;
- identify the major technical requirements of the standard; and
- prepare for the implementation of Z8000 in their province or territory.