

PRESS RELEASE

The Sheriff's Office and California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) were awarded two-year accreditation by the Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) for meeting quality health services standards at the Monterey County Jail. The Institute for Medical Quality, a subsidiary of the California Medical Association (CMA) awarded accreditation on November 17, 2009.

The Institute for Medical Quality Corrections and Detentions Health Care Accreditation Program is a voluntary accreditation program for health services provided in California adult and juvenile detention facilities. To receive accreditation, health services must comply with essential standards of the IMQ accreditation program.

Accreditation survey teams are composed of independent physicians, registered nurses, and mental health professionals who have experience and/or interest in correctional health issues. This provides facilities with reviewers who are sensitive to issues specific to correctional facilities while upholding IMQ's high standards for quality health care and supports the integrity of correctional health care provided to inmates.

Accreditation could only be accomplished by a strong collaboration and commitment between CFMG and the Sheriff's Office, said Dr. Taylor Fithian, President of CFMG. Sheriff Kanalakis said, "the IMQ accreditation exemplifies not only the hard work and dedication of our CFMG healthcare partners but also the close working professional relationship our jail staff enjoys with CFMG. This was a collaborative effort resulting in a well deserved certification. We take the healthcare of our inmates very seriously and this recognition reflects that."