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**PERU'S MEDICINES QUALITY CONTROL LAB ACHIEVES INTERNATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION FOR HIGH STANDARD OF OPERATION**

Dedicated staff of professionals aid in the distribution of good quality critical medicines

Washington, D.C.—Peru's National Center for Quality Control, or *Centro Nacional de Control de Calidad* (CNCC), which is part of Peru's National Institute of Health, or *Instituto Nacional de Salud*, achieved ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation, an internationally recognized standard for testing and calibration laboratories. CNCC attained the accreditation for five critical analytical tests. This important achievement by a laboratory responsible for the quality control of pharmaceutical products will have a significant impact on the distribution of good quality medicines.

CNCC was awarded ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation from ACLASS, an internationally recognized accrediting body based in Washington, D.C.; it ensures that CNCC's technical operations and administrative systems are functioning at the highest quality levels by international standards.

"The ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation positions CNCC as an international reference for labs working on quality control of pharmaceutical products. It consolidates our technical competitiveness, widens our reach, and allows us to contribute to the sustainable development of Peru and the region in public health," says Dr. Ruben Tabuchi, CNCC General Director.

This accreditation certifies that the CNCC provides accurate, valid, and trustworthy information to the Peruvian Ministry of Health, guaranteeing the distribution of only good quality pharmaceutical products to the population.

"Obtaining such a stringent accreditation is not simple. CNCC deserves to be recognized for their commitment and hard work," says Adrian Barojas, Program Manager of the U.S. Pharmacopeia Drug Quality and Information (USP DQI) Program. Victor Pribluda, Manager of Latin American Programs at USP DQI, stressed that CNCC is one of few official medicines control laboratories in Latin America that has achieved ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation, putting the lab in a position that undoubtedly will

contribute to improving access to good quality medicines in the region. USP DQI is a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that works with local governments, USAID Missions, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners to advance strategies to improve drug quality and the appropriate use of drugs in developing countries.

In Peru, USP DQI has been supporting quality assurance and quality control systems in general, and the CNCC in particular, through the USAID-funded Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) since 2002 and South American Infectious Diseases Initiative (SAIDI) since 2005. AMI is a regional initiative working in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname, whose main objective is to improve malaria control at the sub-regional level and contribute to decreasing morbidity and mortality at the national level. Partners include the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Links Media, the Research Triangle Institute (RTI), and seven AMI country members. SAIDI, which works in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru, strives to work at the national and community levels in each country to contain the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Partners in this effort include USP DQI, MSH, CDC, PAHO, Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA), and Links Media.

“As the malaria situation evolves, monitoring the quality of antimalarials becomes even more important for ensuring that good quality drugs are routinely available at the point of use and when efficacy studies are done,” says Dr. Jaime Chang, project management specialist from the Health office of USAID-Peru and AMI and SAIDI coordinator. “Attaining accreditation for these key tests does contribute to ensuring the validity of results provided by CNCC, something critical for supporting the Peruvian health authorities’ efforts to ensure antimicrobials available to treat not only malaria, but tuberculosis and other infectious diseases - ranging from skin infections to AIDS- are of good quality.”

For more information about the CNCC, please visit

<http://www.ins.gob.pe/gxpsites/hgxpp001.aspx?2,6,20,O,S,0,MNU;E;1;19;MNU>. For more information on USAID, please visit www.usaid.gov. Other participating organizations can be found at www.uspdqi.org, www.paho.org, www.msh.org, www.cdc.gov, <http://www.tufts.edu/med/apua>, , <http://www.rti.org>. Links Media can be found at www.linksmedia.net.