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**OWP/P PARTNERS WITH DQI-USA IN U.S. LAUNCH OF
HEALTHCARE DESIGN ASSESSMENT TOOL MEASURING FACILITY DESIGN QUALITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS**

Healthcare strategic planning directly benefits from use of Design Quality Indicator.

CHICAGO, IL (JUNE 9, 2009) – The nationally-acclaimed healthcare practice of Chicago-based architecture, engineering and interior design firm OWP/P has become the first major U.S. architectural firm to champion the U.S. launch of the Design Quality Indicator (DQI) tool as an integral component of the healthcare facilities strategic planning process.

“The architects of the healthcare practice at OWP/P are proud to be trailblazers introducing DQI to the U.S. healthcare community, and are confident that this tool will continue to deliver results in the form of healthcare facilities that achieve higher stakeholder satisfaction, increased efficiency and substantial cost savings,” said Rosalyn Ryan, national business development director for OWP/P Healthcare.

DQI, a software tool only recently brought to the U.S. from the UK, allows hospital decision-makers to improve performance by identifying design improvements impacting performance metrics such as materials delivery, way-finding and workflow process management. It has been used in healthcare facilities throughout the U.K and in certain U.S. markets including NYC public health facilities and several Chicago-area health systems.

The 360-degree DQI review process gives all users, executives, employees and other stakeholders to a facility a voice in the process - from board members to clinicians to vocal community groups. The web-based tool allows decision-makers to quantitatively and objectively evaluate the quality of a medical facility’s architecture and interior design. It enables users to assess the functionality and aesthetics of existing and planned facilities before, during and after the development process.

“DQI is a natural complement to healthcare facilities strategic planning; it creates an objective way to measure design, which many consider an intangible,” said Ryan. “DQI can help all voices to be heard and objectively assesses how well the design is working for all the facility’s constituencies.”

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About DQI USA and OWP/P

DQI USA, LLC recently brought DQI to the U.S. from the U.K., where it was originally developed. OWP/P's healthcare practice has been recognized by *Modern Healthcare*, *Healthcare Design Magazine*, the American Society for Healthcare Engineering and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Both firms are headquartered in Chicago and operate nationally. For more information, please visit <http://www.dqionline.com> and <http://www.owpp.com/>.

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