

**Karen Timmons,  
Chief Executive Officer of the Global Healthcare  
Accreditation® (GHA) Program**

Karen Timmons, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Healthcare Accreditation® (GHA) Program, leads an innovative and inaugural healthcare accreditation program designed specifically for healthcare organizations seeking to elevate the quality, patient experience, and excellence of care provided to medical travel, medical tourism and/or international patients. The program focuses specifically on an organization's Medical Travel Care Continuum, encompassing the entire pathway of medical travel, as well as setting high expectations for transparency and cultural sensitivity. GHA's Standards for Medical Travel Services were accredited in 2019 by the International Society for Quality in Health Care's IEAA Program, thereby providing assurance to patients, insurers, ministries of health, and other stakeholders that an organisation's medical travel services have undergone a rigorous evaluation against the highest international benchmarks for accreditation entities and are focused on both international best practices in medical travel and continuous improvement."

Timmons is an internationally known expert in accreditation, healthcare quality and safety processes, having previously served as President and CEO of Joint Commission International (JCI), Chief Operating Officer of The Joint Commission, and Global Patient Safety Officer for Det Norske Veritas (DNV). Timmons has served as chairperson in the following areas for the World Health Organization (WHO): Chair for the WHO Collaborating Centre on Patient Safety Solutions, Chair for the WHO High 5 Steering Committee, and Chair of the WHO HIV Quality of Care Working Group on HIV-AIDS. She has also served on the Global Health Advisory Council for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and is a past board member and treasurer for the International Society of Quality Assurance (ISQua) as well as a past board member of Planetree, an organization focused on patient-centered care. Currently, Timmons serves on the Board of Directors of LaRabida Children's Hospital in Chicago.

Timmons received her Master in Business Administration (MBA) from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, her MA from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Ct, and her BS from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.