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Governor Rick Scott: Healthcare Commission's Work to Gather Hospital Data and Measurements on Patient Quality of Care Vital to Informing Funding Decisions

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding met in Tampa for the first of a three-stop *Spotlight Transparency Tour* across Florida. The Commission's tour focuses on how taxpayer money in Florida supports Florida hospitals and what results for patients are provided at taxpayer-financed institutions.

Governor Scott said, "The Obama Administration's decision to end the Low Income Pool program left our state with major decisions to make about how to support hospitals that are financially dependent on these federal funds. In the weeks ahead, the work of the Healthcare and Hospital Funding Commission will be vital to assessing the quality of care provided to Floridians through taxpayer-funded hospitals. We absolutely must ensure that taxpayer money going to hospitals has a high return on investment for the people of Florida. That means that the Florida taxpayers who use these hospitals should be getting the best care possible. The more information the Commission gathers from hospitals about their outcomes for patients, the better we can target state taxpayer money to get the highest quality from the hospitals their tax dollars support."

On the elimination of certificate of need laws that limit the number of hospitals in Florida, Governor Scott added, "The elimination of certificate of need laws in Florida, as the Florida House highlighted in their legislation during the special session, is another important way we can increase competition and improve patient quality of care in Florida. I appreciate the Commission's continued focus on this reform and I look forward to continuing to work on this issue with the Legislature."

Two local hospitals executives, Dr. James R. Burkhart, CEO of Tampa General Hospital and Mr. Kristopher Hoce, President of Morton Plant Hospital, addressed the meeting in Tampa today about how they measure quality and improve patient outcomes.

The following represents key patient metrics for the two hospitals:

Quality Metric	Morton Plant	Tampa General
Potentially Preventable Readmission Rate (PPR) – This case mix-adjusted rate measures the percentage of readmissions that are potentially preventable depending on the quality of care.	5.25%	6.14%

Serious Complications Rate – This measures the frequency of Medicare patients who are admitted with one medical problem and develop a serious injury or infection during the course of their treatment. An index of one (1) is considered average.

0.98

1.65

Hospital Consumer of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Five Star Patient Satisfaction Survey – Patients are asked to rate their experience on a scale of one to five stars, with five being the best patient experience possible.

4 stars

3 stars

Emergency Room Wait Time – This measures the average time it takes to see a qualified medical professional and receive a diagnostic evaluation.

26 minutes

49 minutes

The following were also discussed as options for increasing transparency:

- **Patient Cost per Procedure** – This figure outlines the actual payments made between insurers and hospitals.
- **Physician/Nursing Quality** – This metric can be measured using patient satisfaction surveys, adverse incident reports, or other indicators of quality.

Moving forward, the Commission will continue to collect and analyze performance metrics in order to develop a frame of reference for the current level of healthcare quality around the state.

Guest speaker Dr. Marty Makary, a Surgical Director at Johns Hopkins and leading expert on patient safety, also spoke to the Commission on trends in American health care and the impact of transparency to lower costs and improve quality.

The Commission was also provided a comparison of Graduate Medical Education (GME) in two states, Texas and Florida, for its consideration of factors which will affect quality - [Click Here To View](#).

“On behalf of the Commission, I want to sincerely thank Dr. Makary and the distinguished hospital representatives who joined us here today,” said Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek. “Information that we received from the hospitals here today and from those we will hear from at future meetings will assist the Commission in identifying key measures that can be utilized to judge quality.”

"The Commission appreciates the participation of leaders from Tampa General Hospital and Morton Plant Hospital today as they shed light on quality measures for hospital performance," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "We look forward to continuing the Spotlight Transparency Tour in Jacksonville and Miami as a way to gain more insights into cost effective health care outcomes."

The next meeting for the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding will take place on Wednesday, July 1st at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville before heading to Miami. For more information about the Commission, please visit www.healthandhospitalcommission.com.

The Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding was formed by Governor Rick Scott to investigate the role of taxpayer funding for hospitals, insurers, and healthcare providers in Florida. The Commission is comprised of nine members and two Co-Executive Directors. For more information about the Commission and its activities, please visit <http://www.healthandhospitalcommission.com>.