



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Governor Scott’s Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding  
 Discusses Quality of Care and Cost Savings at Surgical Centers**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding met in Tallahassee to discuss the current rules and regulations around surgery centers in Florida in order to create better pricing and outcomes for patients. Liz Dudek, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration and Co-Executive Director of the Commission, also updated the Commission on responses to a [request](#) for hospital and managed care plans to certify that rates in their contractual agreements do not exceed the 120 percent of the Medicaid fee schedule, as required by law. Below is a list of hospitals who will be audited by the Office of Medicaid Program Integrity for either not responding to the request (indicated by an asterisk \*) or failing to respond prior to the submission deadline. The hospitals who failed to respond that their contracts were within the law were:

<b>Cleveland Clinic Hospital *</b>	Baptist Hospital	Physicians Regional Medical Center – Collier Boulevard
Physicians Regional Medical Center – Pine Ridge	Flagler Hospital	Venice Regional Bayfront Health
Bay Medical Center Sacred Heart Health System	Bayfront Health Punta Gorda	Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
<b>Campbellton-Graceville Hospital *</b>	Doctor’s Memorial Hospital	Healthmark Regional Medical Center
Kindred Hospital – Melbourne	Kindred Hospital – Ocala	Kindred Hospital – The Palm Beaches
Kindred Hospital – Bay Area – St. Petersburg	Kindred Hospital – Bay Area – Tampa	Kindred Hospital – Central Tampa
Kindred Hospital – North Florida	Kindred Hospital – South Florida – Coral Gables	Kindred Hospital – South Florida – Ft. Lauderdale
Kindred Hospital – South Florida – Hollywood	Martin Hospital South	Martin Medical Center
Tradition Medical Center	Lake Butler Hospital	Select Specialty Hospital – Orlando (North)
Select Specialty Hospital – Palm Beach	<b>Select Specialty Hospital – Panama City *</b>	<b>Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center *</b>
West Gables Rehabilitation Hospital		

Representative Jason Brodeur, Chair of the House Health & Human Services Committee, presented on changing the period of time a patient can stay at an ASC from the current one business day to a full 24 hours. This was a topic during the 2015 legislative session.

“I am excited to see the Commission explore alternative delivery models for outpatient procedures,” said Representative Brodeur. “Last session, we highlighted an example of how these standalone facilities can lower costs and improve outcomes. Moving forward, we will continue to seek out ways to make the current healthcare system more efficient while maintaining a high standard of care, a goal that I am happy to also see reflected in the work of this Commission.”

AHCA Secretary Liz Dudek said, “We are disappointed the facilities listed did not meet the deadline we set for responses. Moving the Medicaid program into managed care is about bringing stability to health care costs. In order to ensure tax dollars are being spent as set out in law, those that failed to respond will now be subject to an audit by the Office of Medicaid Program Integrity. The Commission’s task is to help define cost drivers in health care and offer solutions. These audits coupled with the responses we’ve already received bring us a step closer to achieving that goal.”

Agency staff members also provided an overview of Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), which are growing in popularity and play an increasing role as an alternative healthcare delivery model.

The Commission was also joined by Dr. David Shapiro, an Anesthesiologist and Board member of the National ASC Quality Collaborative, who played a leading role in advising ASCs around the country on how best to report quality metrics. Dr. Shapiro shared his experiences at Red Hills Surgical Center, a licensed ASC operating in Tallahassee. Dr. Shapiro’s presentation centered on quality of care and improved health outcomes that can occur in such a specialized treatment facility.

Dr. Dean Watson, the Chief Medical Officer of Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, described services provided on both an inpatient and outpatient basis at Tallahassee Memorial and gave an overview of the current operations at the hospital’s freestanding emergency department.

“I would like to thank all of the presenters from today’s meeting for educating us on these important alternative care settings, which are transforming the healthcare landscape in Florida” said Carlos Beruff, Chair of the Commission, “I think I speak for all of the members when I say that there are lessons to be learned from the cost savings and operational efficiencies at these facilities. I know I will be drawing from the discussions in this meeting as we continue to look at other areas of the healthcare system.”

State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong said, “Today we heard from thought leaders about opportunities for greater value in patient care through ambulatory surgery centers. The Commission continues to identify opportunities for health care efficiency and transparency.”

A recording of this meeting will be made available at <http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/>. The Commission will continue to seek out greater transparency around the way that taxpayer dollars are used to support better health outcomes moving forward. For more information about the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding, please visit [www.healthandhospitalcommission.com](http://www.healthandhospitalcommission.com).

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*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>.*