



For Immediate Release

August 31, 2015

Contact: media@eog.myflorida.com

(850) 717-9282

Governor Rick Scott's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding Focuses on Quality Outcome Measures at Hospitals

ORLANDO, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding met in Orlando to discuss ways to increase patient quality outcomes at healthcare institutions.

Governor Rick Scott said, "Patients expect to receive great outcomes when they go to the hospital and we have to make sure all healthcare institutions in our state are providing the best care possible. Today's discussion looked at measures being taken across the nation to improve patient quality. We need to continue to explore ideas like those discussed today during the upcoming legislative session to make sure we are doing all we can to provide the best care possible to our patients."

During today's Commission meeting, **Dr. Norbert Goldfield**, Medical Director of 3M Health Information Systems, gave an overview of his company's methodology for identifying Potentially Preventable Readmissions (PPRs). 3M's Potentially Preventable Readmissions rate is an innovative measure identified by the Commission to help compare levels of healthcare quality across providers in Florida. Other comparative measures include the Serious Complication Rate and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Five Star Patient Satisfaction Survey.

Dr. Norbert Goldfield said, "At the end of the day, risk adjustment is an art, not a perfect science...medicine is an art, not a perfect science. An active, engaged, well-informed consumer is our best chance to make measurable improvements to healthcare outcomes."

Laurel Pickering, the President and CEO of Northeast Business Group on Health, followed with a presentation on how to achieve quality improvements among providers through combined purchasing power of corporate clients such as Barclays, Merck and IBM. Ms. Pickering is the Chairperson for a national nonprofit organization, The Leapfrog Group, which uses a survey to measure hospital performance in safety, quality and efficiency. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey is the only nationally standardized and endorsed set of measures to accurately measure hospital quality.

Dr. Karen van Caulil is the President and CEO of The Florida Health Care Coalition (FLHCC) which represents large public and private sector health care purchasers

covering nearly 2 million Floridians. She presented to the Commission about the work being done with providers and employers to improve value and quality in health care.

Dr. Deborah German, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of UCF College of Medicine, also gave an overview of the school's programs and collaborations in achieving top healthcare quality in Florida.

Carlos Beruff, Chairman of the Commission, said, "Today we have heard from 3M and Leapfrog representatives who have given us important insights into quality of care and how it is measured. Making sense of this complex area is a key part of our work into making the system more transparent, easier to understand and accessible to the consumer and the cost efficiencies that can be derived from implementation."

Dr. John Armstrong, State Surgeon General and Co-Executive Director of the Commission, said, "Today, the commissioners verified the importance of transparency, through understandable and measurable outcomes of patient care, as a driver of quality. The commission continues to identify opportunities for patient engagement in care decisions."

Molly McKinstry, AHCA Deputy Secretary for Health Quality Assurance, said, "I would like to thank everyone who took the time to present to the Commission today. It was helpful to learn how large employers and others achieve value-based health care and drive down costs while remaining focused on outcomes. Both nationally and here in Florida, we are seeing innovative approaches and ideas to health care worth considering as we look to bring about transparency in costs and better quality outcomes for Florida's taxpayers."

The Commission will continue to meet regularly over the coming months across Florida. Members have suggested additional topics of interest for future meetings including the history of Certificate of Need (CON) programs in Florida and the United States. A recording of this meeting will be made available at 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/.