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**AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION EXPANDS HEALTH
INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON FLORIDAHEALTHFINDER.GOV**

~Agency enhances the state's award-winning source for health information~

TALLAHASSEE – Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today announced several enhancements to its interactive Web site, www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov, which provides health care consumers and providers with information about the quality of Florida's health care system. Winner of the National Association of Health Data Organizations' (NAHDO) 2009 Innovation in Data Dissemination Award, FloridaHealthFinder.gov is the only Web site of its kind to connect a health encyclopedia and symptom navigator to consumer information about a particular health care facility. Recent enhancements include a new multimedia health encyclopedia, an improved facility locator tool, simplified access to data, and more current information.

"Floridians deserve to have access to all available information when making important health care decisions for themselves and their families," said Agency Secretary Thomas W. Arnold. "FloridaHealthFinder.gov not only provides that access but continues to take giant steps forward to update and improve the quality of the data displayed."

FloridaHealthFinder.gov now features a state-of-the-art medical, multimedia encyclopedia, powered by A.D.A.M. that engages visitors with interactive tools to access comprehensive online health information. The multimedia encyclopedia gives visitors the opportunity to research a disease or condition, lookup a symptom, learn about a medical test, prepare for a surgery or procedure, and much more through articles, illustrations, and videos. The new high-definition videos include helpful demonstrations such as "how to use an asthma inhaler," "tracking your blood pressure at home," and more.

The new multimedia encyclopedia also features Care Points, designed to help patients become more active participants in their health care, before and after their physician's visits. Care Points cover four clinical areas where patients need information the most: 1) patient education about discharge information, 2) pre-operative information and instructions, 3) self-care information and 4) suggested questions to ask their physician.

The Facility/Provider Locator tool on FloridaHealthFinder.gov is now more efficient and detailed than ever before. This tool allows the public to access all available data on 34 types of providers licensed by the Agency. Improvements to the Facility/Provider Locator tool include:



- **Expanded Search Functions** – Prior to the recent enhancements, visitors could only search by Facility/Provider type or county. The expanded search functions allow users to search by facility/provider type, name, city, county, license number, administrator/chief executive officer, owner, or profit status.
- **Addition of Advanced Search Function** – The Facility/Provider Locator tool now includes an Advanced Search Function to coincide with the information provided on the facility/provider profile pages. For example, visitors can use the Advanced Search Function to search for hospitals by special designations such as rural hospital or teaching hospitals or they can search for nursing homes with Gold Seal status, assisted living facilities with specialty licenses such as limited mental health or extended congregate care, or various other indicators based on provider type.
- **More Detailed Facility/Provider Profile Pages** – Facility/Provider Profile Pages now include more detailed information, including driving directions, links to both regulatory and complaint inspection reports conducted by the Agency, specialty programs and services provided by the facility, bed types, specialty licenses, accreditations, and much more.

“Florida is a leader in making health care information transparent for consumers,” said Michael L. Epstein, MD, Advisory Council Chairman and Pediatric Representative of Health Care Coalition. “These new enhancements to FloridaHealthFinder.gov will improve how Floridians make their next health care decisions for themselves and their families.”

With a commitment to transparency, the Agency added another new feature late last year to make health care data available to the public. The Agency launched Facility Feed Builder on the Web site. This RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed capability allows visitors to the site to access facility data and information on request without any restrictions. These feeds provide timely data updates in one prominent location.

The Agency also released the following updated data to FloridaHealthFinder.gov:

- Health plan quality measures showing results for 2008.
- Compare care data for ambulatory and inpatient results for April 2008 to March 2009.
- Hospital 15-day readmissions reflect results from January 2008 to December 2008.
- Pediatric hospitalizations reflect results from April 2006 to March 2009.
- Researchers and Professionals Query Tool for hospitals, ambulatory, and emergency departments have been updated with data from April 2008 to March 2009.

My Florida Health eBook, Florida's free, Internet-based personal health record for Medicaid recipients, is now available on FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Florida Medicaid recipients can use their Medicaid ID number to create their My Florida Health eBook account. At this time, recipients will be able to self-enter their personal health information into their My Florida Health eBook. In the spring of 2010, Florida Medicaid will include claims data in recipients' personal health records for services paid by Florida Medicaid.

The *Florida Medicaid Health Information Network*, powered by Availity, Florida's Medicaid claims-based electronic health record portal for providers, can also be accessed from FloridaHealthFinder.gov.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 40,000 health care facilities and 43 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics. For more information, please visit <http://ahca.myflorida.com>.

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