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Gov. Rick Scott: Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding's Work Will Help Guide Funding Decisions at Public Hospitals Next Year

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Today, the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding met in Jacksonville for the second stop on its *Spotlight Transparency Tour* across Florida. Governor Scott charged the Commission with investigating how taxpayer dollars fund hospitals and the affect those tax dollars have on patient outcomes and quality of health care.

Governor Scott said, "Last week, Florida saw a tremendous victory when we finally received an agreement in principle from the federal government to continue part of Florida's Low Income Pool funding even though we did not expand Obamacare. As we prepare for the next legislative session, it is imperative that the Commission continues to look at taxpayer funded hospitals to ensure there is a measurable return on investment on any money these institutions receive in the future. This review will help guide our decisions when determining how to best move forward so all Floridians can know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent and the outcomes being received at each hospital."

Staff from the Agency for Health Care Administration opened the meeting with a presentation on executive compensation and staffing levels at hospitals around the state. To view the compensation data, click [HERE](#). Members discussed their observations about the allocation of taxpayer dollars and utilization of human resources by Florida hospitals.

The Commission was also joined by Mr. Russell E. Armistead, Jr., CEO of UF Health Jacksonville and Mr. Donnie Romine, Interim President & CEO of St. Vincent's HealthCare. The two hospital executives discussed current operations and how they measure quality and improve patient outcomes at their facility.

The following represents key patient metrics for the two hospitals:

Quality Metric	UF Health	St. Vincent's
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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.

6.76%*

6.5%*

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.

1.23*

0.54*

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.

2 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.

58mins

53mins

The following were also addressed 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.

A panel discussion focused on these 6 hospital quality measures and included contributions from Dr. Joseph J. Tepas, National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, and Dr. Jannifer Harper, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Florida Blue.

Carlos Beruff, President of Medallion Homes and Chair of the Commission, said: “Providing greater transparency on how taxpayer dollars are used to achieve positive

health outcomes for Floridians is at the heart of the Commission's work. A deep dive into compensation and staffing levels is necessary to better track the flow of taxpayer dollars through the healthcare system. Today's analysis of that data is an important part of shining a light on hospital finances and ensuring value to the taxpayer and the patient."

"I would like to thank all of the presenters from today's meeting for sharing important perspectives about quality measurement to drive improvement in healthcare outcomes and efficiency," said Florida State Surgeon General and Co-Executive Director of the Commission Dr. John Armstrong. "With the continued support of healthcare leaders across the state, the Commission is poised to identify ways to enhance healthcare value and transparency for patients and families in Florida."

This is the Commission's second stop on their Spotlight Transparency Tour, which began in Tampa last month and ends on Thursday, July 23 in Miami. For more information about the Commission, please visit www.healthandhospitalcommission.com.

** Out of 18,935 inpatient admissions, UF Health had 1,355 instances where a patient could have avoided being readmitted to the hospital within 15 days if better quality of care had been delivered. Out of 20,577 inpatient admissions, St. Vincent's had 1,327 instances where a patient could have avoided being readmitted to the hospital within 15 days if better quality of care had been delivered.*

For more information on this metric for all Jacksonville hospitals, see the "Serious Complications Rates for the Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area" graph [HERE](#).

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