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Georgia Medicaid Takes Next Step In Nursing Home Quality Initiative

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) announced today that DCH will award 78 percent of the Medicaid participating nursing homes that met or exceeded specific quality performance standards with its pay-for-performance incentive program this month. This feature is the latest in a series of innovations growing out of a four-year Georgia Nursing Home Quality Initiative.

The Georgia Nursing Home Quality Initiative is a collaborative effort between DCH, nursing home providers and consumer groups focused on raising the quality of care received by the 40,000 Georgia citizens who reside in the state's nursing homes. The initiative uses a common set of key performance factors tracked and reported each month by Georgia nursing homes via Web-based technology. Coupled with yearly customer and employee satisfaction surveys, the information is analyzed and fed back to the facilities, enabling them to take quicker action to improve care and satisfaction. At the same time, facilities can continually compare their performance to state and national benchmarks.

"The Georgia Nursing Home Quality Initiative has positioned us to ensure health care quality continues to improve and evolve in a manner that serves our communities needs," said Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner.

The state's largest purchaser of nursing home services, Georgia Medicaid, now has the information to begin paying rates that financially reward facilities that continue to meet high standards on selected quality measures. Facilities will be reviewed every 90 days to determine if they have met the requirements for additional quality payments.

In calculating the quality incentive payments, DCH will use independent nursing home performance information provided by My InnerView Inc., a national health care applied research and data management firm. This calculation will include family satisfaction and employee satisfaction scores, as well as clinical and workforce performance metrics. My InnerView has provided performance tracking and data analysis for the Georgia Nursing Home Quality Initiative since the program's inception in 2003.

For more information about the program, visit <http://www.gqca.info/>.

About the Department of Community Health

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources

HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes