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**Physicians Collaborate with DCH on Medicare Demonstration Project  
*Stakeholder Meeting Convenes on Electronic Health Records***

**ATLANTA** – Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) kicked off the first meeting of the Georgia Medicare Electronic Health Records (EHR) Community Partnership. The meeting is a part of the DCH's on going efforts to encourage small to medium-sized physician practices to adopt electronic health records.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to transform health care delivery in Georgia," said DCH Commissioner Dr. Rhonda Medows. "By adopting electronic health records into our practices, we have the potential not only to advance the quality of care provided, but also revolutionize the way medicine is practiced and delivered."

During the meeting, physicians collaborated on Georgia's application for the Medicare Demonstration Project, which is sponsored by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid.

"Physician practices that have been trailblazers in the implementation EHRs can assist by being champions and advocates for technology to other physicians by sharing what they have already experienced from the use of health information technology," said Dr. Robert A. Suykerbuyk from the Center for Primary Care in Augusta.

Over a five-year period, the program will provide financial incentives to physician groups using certified EHRs to meet certain clinical quality measures. A bonus will be provided each year based on a physician group's score on a standardized survey that assesses the specific EHR functions a group employs to support the delivery of care.

"EHRs give doctors the right information at the right time so they can make the right decisions and save lives," said Dr. Medows. "This is best tool for Georgia's physicians to better manage conditions and reduce errors."

Georgia's Medicare Electronic Health Records (EHR) Demonstration Project advances Governor Sonny Perdue's goal of establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent.

For more information about the Georgia HITT Initiative, visit [www.dch.georgia.gov/gahitt](http://www.dch.georgia.gov/gahitt).

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