



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

### **STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN HEALTH CARE**

- WHEREAS:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006, I created a Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board to advise the Department of Community Health; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of this board is to advise the Department Community Health on the introduction of marketplace transparency, the development of a statewide health care quality and cost reporting program, and on applying industry best practices that facilitate the use of electronic health records; and
- WHEREAS:** Health care consumers should have the opportunity to select providers and health care services based on cost and the quality of service; and
- WHEREAS:** Timely and accessible information about the quality and price of health services can facilitate achieving these goals while avoiding duplication of effort and unnecessary administrative burdens; and
- WHEREAS:** Health care purchasers, insurers/benefits administrators, providers, and consumers alike all need good information to make appropriate health care decisions; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia has committed to these principles as articulated by the State as outlined in the 2005 Georgia Medicaid modernization plan; and
- WHEREAS:** The state is a major purchaser of health care, through its Medicaid Program, child health insurance program (PeachCare), and State Employee Health Benefits Program; and
- WHEREAS:** My FY2008 budget recommends \$1 million to improve information available to the consumer of health care regarding quality and cost to enable a more value-driven system of health care.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** Georgia will encourage health care providers, health insurance plans, and third party administrators to utilize health information technology systems and to meet existing interoperability standards recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** In exchanging information, patient privacy will be protected as required by law. We will build on the work of the Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board to leverage the potential of information technology to improve health care delivery.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** To support assessment and consumer awareness of the quality of care delivered by health care providers, Georgia will encourage health insurance providers or third party administrators with which it contracts to implement programs working with their providers that measure the quality of services supplied to their enrollees consistent with consensus-based measures emerging through broad health care stakeholder efforts.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** To support assessment and consumer awareness of the cost or price of care delivered by health care providers, Georgia will encourage health insurance providers or third party administrators with which it contracts to implement programs working with their providers that bring more transparency to the cost or price of services supplies to their enrollees consistent with broad-based, multi-stakeholder efforts underway.


**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** Georgia will examine appropriate opportunities to promote:

- a) pay for performance in health care financing, consistent with its goals of maintaining access, a broad provider network, and quality health services;
- b) empowerment for patients to use information on the quality and cost of care in making healthcare decisions.

These efforts shall be coordinated by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Health.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007.

  
GOVERNOR