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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2005

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**AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF
FLORIDA COMPARE CARE**

~This consumer-friendly website will provide useful information to consumers about the health care facilities in their communities~

TALLAHASSEE - The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) announced today the launch of the consumer health website www.floridacomparecare.gov. This interactive website is designed to be the first step in creating a more transparent health care system.

As part of an initiative mandated by House Bill 1629, AHCA has been working with the Comprehensive Health Information System (CHIS) Advisory Council to release a consumer-friendly website that will report performance measures on Florida's hospitals and ambulatory, or outpatient, surgery centers. The website will display the number of patients, charges, length of stay, readmission rates, mortality rates, and complication rates for various medical conditions and procedures in Florida's short term acute care hospitals.

"The Florida Compare Care website underscores AHCA's commitment to the transparency of health care information," said Secretary Alan Levine. "Florida's hospitals and health care facilities are among the best in the world. The more transparent our system is, the more likely we will see even better performance."

As a part of www.FloridaHealthStat.com, this website will also provide consumers the opportunity to compare information for specific facilities or to find information on a particular medical condition or procedure. Background information will be provided to the consumer to explain the data, provide descriptions of the medical conditions and procedures, and why the data may differ from facility to facility.

"By making this information public, hospitals will be able to highlight their strengths and create benchmarks for improvement," said Senator Durell Peaden.

"The Florida Legislature is committed to arming Florida's consumers with helpful information," said Representative Farkas. "Knowledge is power, and for consumers of health care, transparent health outcome data can be lifesaving."

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The CHIS Advisory Council serves in an advisory role to AHCA, addressing various issues concerning the reporting of health care data and the presentation of consumer information. The CHIS Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen health care professionals who represent state and local agencies, the state universities, business and health coalitions, local health councils, professionals' health-care-related associations, consumers and purchasers.

Working to improve access to affordable, quality health care to all Floridians, the state Agency for Health Care Administration administers Florida's \$15 billion Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 32,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics.

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