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## **FHA Launches Healthcare Web Site to Assist Consumers**

Tallahassee, FL – The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) launched today a new consumer Web site to assist the public in researching and managing their healthcare information. The Web site, [www.floridainformedpatient.com](http://www.floridainformedpatient.com), is designed to put a variety of healthcare information resources on the desktops of patients and consumers. With a simple click of a mouse button, patients can search for a hospital based on the types of services it provides, its location, and also allows you to navigate directly to the hospital's Web site. The site also provides checklists for patients to use when selecting a hospital, a physician, or a health plan and gives quick links to a variety of healthcare sites providing quality and pricing information.

"The hospital community in Florida has long supported transparency; however, consumers often find themselves lost in the mountains of healthcare information," said Wayne NeSmith, President of the Florida Hospital Association. "This new Web portal will place many of the recognized quality and pricing Web sites at the finger tips of patients and provide other new, useful tools for consumers when planning for their healthcare needs or the needs of their family and friends," said NeSmith.

Launched today, the site serves as a pathway to a number of recognized Web sites providing information on hospitals, physicians, health insurance companies, prescription drugs, and general health information. "Our research found that many Web sites compete with each other and few link the various sources together," said Kim Streit, FHA Vice President for Healthcare Research and Information. "We did not develop a service to compete with different resources, but rather one that complements existing sites coupled with information specific to Florida's hospitals," said Streit.

The Web site also provides helpful information in choosing your hospital, understanding your hospital bill, checking physician credentials, links to HMO pricing and quality, comparing drug pricing, and information on how to avoid medication errors. The site will be updated as new resources become publicly available.

FHA supported Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration's (AHCA's) consumer Web site efforts and has been an active participant in the development of AHCA's [comparecare.gov](http://comparecare.gov) Web site. Beginning October 2006, the Agency's site is expected to be expanded to include quality and pricing information on health insurers and physicians.

The Florida Hospital Association is a statewide advocacy and trade association representing 176 hospitals across the state.

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## Overview of FloridaInformedPatient.com

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1. Provides tools that allow consumers to more actively participate in their healthcare, including:
  - How to prevent infections;
  - Steps to safe patient care;
  - A checklist to help guide selection of a health plan, physician or hospital;
  - Information on a Patient's Bill of Rights;
  - Provides Living Will documents; and
  - Information on organ donation.
2. Provides access to Web sites to help patients learn more about their medical condition and how to be a more active patient.
3. Provides information on hospitals, physicians, health plans, and medications.
4. Provides a search tool that allows patients to locate a hospital based on the types of services it provides and by location. This tool provides a direct link to the hospital's individual Web site.
5. Provides tips on how to understand your hospital bill and get your claim paid.
6. Provides links to available sources for quality and pricing information including direct links to the AHCA CompareCare Web site, CMS' HospitalCompare, JCAHO's Checkpoint, and other sources for health plans and physician data.

# www.floridainformedpatient.com Screen Shot

FloridaInformedPatient.com

- Health Information
- Hospitals
- Physicians
- Health Insurance
- Prescription Drugs
- Glossary of Terms

## Your Health information Web portal



**Health Information**  
Understanding your medical condition and the procedure you are considering. [Read More](#)

**Hospitals**  
How to choose a hospital, sources for cost and quality information, a checklist to review prior to your hospital visit, information on understanding your hospital bill and contact information if you have a complaint. [Read More](#)

**Physicians**  
Things to consider in choosing a physician and contact information if you have a complaint. [Read More](#)

**Health Insurance**  
Information on understanding your insurance coverage, selecting a health insurance plan, quality and performance information on Florida's health plans, how to get your claim paid and contact information if you have a complaint. [Read More](#)

**Prescription Drugs**  
Price comparison information and how to avoid medication errors. [Read More](#)

**Welcome to FloridaInformedPatient.com**, a Web site sponsored by the [Florida Hospital Association](#), designed to provide you with resources and access to tools that will help you make informed healthcare decisions. Florida hospitals support a "transparent" healthcare system where consumers have access to information to make more informed healthcare decisions. The resources on this site should help you become a more INFORMED PATIENT.

We would like your [feedback](#). Please let us know if you found the site useful or if you have any suggestions.

**Checklists**  
Helpful checklists for you to use when choosing your hospital, physician or health plan.

**Disclaimer**  
This site is sponsored by the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) and was created based on the input from Florida hospitals. While the information is kept as accurate as possible, in no way does FloridaInformedPatient, FHA and Florida hospitals take any responsibility for the actions of any persons accessing this site or its content, nor offer any guarantees. For a complete listing of the disclaimer, [read more](#).

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