

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 5, 2007

CONTACT:

Lisa Marie Shekell
404-463-5304

East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc. Receives \$250,000 Health Information Exchange Grant

ATLANTA – At the monthly meeting of the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Board, Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced the awardees of \$853,088 in health information exchange (HIE) grants. East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc., was one of four partnerships to receive grant money to help foster the development of HIE, electronic prescribing, and/or adoption of electronic medical records across Georgia.

“Through their proposals, the Georgia HIE Grant awardees exemplified the principles and strategies of health information technology and exchange,” said Dr. Medows. “The four health partnerships will drive improvements in health care quality, safety and efficiency.”

East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc. will use the grant to implement a system-wide e-Prescribing program. The program will focus on the underserved community and work to decrease the cost of outpatient pharmaceuticals, improve patient safety, increase efficiencies, integrate data and patient information, and provide for legible prescriptions reviewed for contraindications, drug redundancies, known allergies and formulary compliance. East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc. has three locations located in Reidsville, Soperton and Swainsboro.

The Georgia HIE grantees aim to improve access to comprehensive patient health information created by multiple providers and to decrease prescription errors linked to illegible handwriting or insufficient information. The awardees will match the funds given to them by the state.

On October 17, 2006, Governor Sonny Perdue signed an Executive Order creating the HITT Board to advise DCH on the best practices for encouraging the use of electronic health records and establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent. The announcement of the Georgia HIE Grants is based on recommendations from the HITT Advisory Board.

For more information about the Georgia HITT Initiative, visit www.dch.georgia.gov.



***Pictured from left to right:
Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of
Community Health; Herman Thompson, Chief Information Officer for East
Georgia Healthcare Center; Dr. Winston Price, chair of the Health
Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Board; Robert Bush,
Privacy Advocate Member of the HITT Board; and Denise Williams, project
manager for the HITT initiatives.***