

# PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS: Hospital and health care leaders in Georgia are committed to creating a culture of safety that encourages the prevention and reporting of errors. These professionals are actively involved in activities to improve the quality of health care and communication with patients and families; and

WHEREAS: Since consumers, providers and the community must work together and be responsible for their role in improving health care delivery, the Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) was created in January 2000 in an effort to bring together hospitals, physicians, nurses, pharmacies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, the business community, policy leaders and consumers to share data, resources and expenses and to ensure quality and patient safety; and

WHEREAS: This Georgia initiative has been recognized nationally for its leadership in improving patient safety, by outlining five steps to safer health for patients: speak up if you have questions; keep a list of all medicines you take; make sure you get the results of any test procedures; talk with your doctor and health care team about your options if you need hospital care; and make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery; and

WHEREAS: The PHA provides a forum to discuss and promote data-driven public policy based upon the use of best practices for clinical evidence, coordination of care, expansion of health care coverage and access to health services; and

WHEREAS: The goal of Patient Safety Awareness Week is to promote education and communication about patient safety, as well as partnerships between patients and health care providers; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the March 9-15, 2003, as PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.



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