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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Florida Hospital Center for Health Futures Debuts Unique "My Care Decisions" Electronic Advance Directive Program

Revolutionary Electronic Advance Directive Program Provides Individual Living Wills on Mini Compact Disks for Portability and Peace of Mind

Winter Park, FL —It happens everyday. Someone finds themselves in a situation where they are forced to make critical decisions on behalf of a loved one without being completely sure of that person's wishes. Florida Hospital's Center for Health Futures has now introduced a revolutionary solution to this common dilemma. "My CD", which stands for "My Care Decisions," is an electronic version of an advance directive, more commonly known as a living will. The personal data, including individual health care instructions, religious preferences and decisions about life support, is contained on a pocket-sized compact disk that fits easily into a wallet or purse. This allows individuals to easily carry it along wherever they go, in case of an emergency. The not-for-profit program, which is available to people of all ages, is designed to provide peace of mind, not only to the individual, but also to their family, close friends and caregivers.

"'My CD' allows people to assert their independence and express their desires even if they are unable to speak for themselves," said Dr. Ross Edmundson, MD, Medical Director of Hospital Medical Management for Florida Hospital. "We felt that it was important to provide the community with this revolutionary new tool, and to encourage people to begin a dialogue with their loved ones regarding these vital personal decisions about their health care."

(more)

The "My CD" disk comes encased in a personalized program packet that explains the importance of discussing end-of-life wishes with family, friends, doctors, faith leaders and health care surrogates.

In order to receive the disk, participants simply request information, either in person, by phone, mail or online at www.mycaredecisions.com. They are then provided with an advance directive form to fill out, and upon completion, the information is scanned onto a mini compact disk and placed into a personalized program packet for each individual to keep in their wallets or handbags. The hard copy is kept on file at Florida Hospital, but the disk will be readable on any computer in any location, with a PDF reader.

"One of the primary advantages of the 'My CD' program is that this disk is able to be used at any hospital in any city throughout the world," added Edmundson. "As long as the hospital has a computer that can read Adobe Acrobat files, the advance directive is easily accessible anywhere."

The "My CD" disk is available immediately at the Florida Hospital Center for Health Futures, located at Winter Park Hospital, 200 N. Lakemont Avenue in Winter Park. More information can be requested by calling toll-free 1-888-616-8773. Forms and instructions can also be downloaded online at www.mycaredecisions.com. A minimal $5 charge covers materials, postage and administration of the program.

About the Center for Health Futures

The Center for Health Futures at Florida Hospital collaborates in research, demonstration and education initiatives that advance community-responsive health system improvement. Representatives will be participating in community events throughout the year, in order to educate the public on the importance of advance directives. For more information on the Center for Health Futures or the "My CD" program, please visit http://www.thecenterforhealthfutures.com.

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Editor's Note: Electronic images are available by contacting Andrea Roland at Phoenix Marketing Group, Inc.
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