

**For Immediate Release**

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***General Motors CEO salutes Greater Flint Health Coalition for  
reducing death in heart failure patients in testimony to the  
United States Senate***

In a July 13, 2006 written testimony before the United States Senate's Special Committee on Aging, General Motors Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr. G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., recognized the Greater Flint Health Coalition and its Heart Failure Task Force as part of his company's "...comprehensive strategy to improve quality and manage costs..." The testimony, he noted, was an "...opportunity to testify about the innovations GM is supporting in the private marketplace to manage health care costs..."

Under its formal title, "From Medicaid to Retiree Benefits: How Seniors Impact America's Health Care Costs," Mr. Wagoner's testimony described the Coalition's Heart Failure Task Force and its activities implemented in the Guidelines Applied in Practice Heart Failure (GAP-HF) Project as follows,

"This program, which covers almost 200,000 General Motors employees, retirees, and their families, was implemented with the Greater Flint Health Coalition in Flint, Michigan (overseen by the University of Michigan and sponsored by the American College of Cardiology). The goal is to increase the adherence of physicians to the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guidelines for Evaluation and Management of Chronic Health Failure. Evidence shows this leads to lower death risks, lower readmission rates and better quality of care for patients..."

Later in the testimony, Mr. Wagoner discussed "GM's ongoing efforts to continue providing high quality health care in the face of ever-increasing costs." He again highlighted the Coalition's Heart Failure Task Force and the results of its Mid-Michigan Guidelines Applied in Practice Heart Failure (GAP-HF) Project,

"The project was implemented in eight participating hospitals (Genesee, Lapeer, Saginaw, Bay, Midland and Ingham Counties)...Preliminary results showed a significant improvement in the use of standardized orders, discharge documents and critical pathways' compliance. In the aggregate, the eight hospitals experienced significant advancements in the use of beta blockers and aldosterone inhibitors. Also increased was documentation of discharge instructions and smoking cessation counseling. Results include a 30 day reduction in the readmission rate of 22%, and reduction in mortality rate of 27%..."

For a full transcript of Mr. Wagoner's testimony, please go to: [http://aging.senate.gov/public/\\_files/hr160rw.pdf](http://aging.senate.gov/public/_files/hr160rw.pdf)

The Greater Flint Health Coalition, the lead agency for the GAP-HF Project, is a 501(c)3 organization that serves as a community/institutional partnership and multi-faceted collaborative body. Its mission is twofold: Improve the health status of the residents of Genesee County; improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the health care system in the community. The Greater Flint Health Coalition Board of Directors is a broad reflection of the community's leadership including representatives from government, health providers, labor, business, insurers, education, consumers, and faith-based organizations.

For additional information about the Greater Flint Health Coalition or the activities of our Heart Failure Task Force, please feel free to contact our offices by telephone at (810) 232-2228 or by email at [gfhc@flint.org](mailto:gfhc@flint.org).

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