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NEW DATA COMPARES HOSPITAL QUALITY OF CARE FOR EIGHT MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

SACRAMENTO – Advancing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s efforts to improve California’s healthcare system through enhanced data reporting and analysis, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released data that examines the quality of care California’s hospitals provide for 8 different procedures and conditions.

“Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California 2006 and 2007” compare the quality of care of nearly 400 California hospitals on their mortality rates for 5 procedures and 3 conditions including stroke, hip fractures, and brain surgery. The indicators are risk-adjusted, taking into account patients’ pre-existing health problems to “level the field” and allow fair comparisons among hospitals.

“By adopting a federally developed methodology that is used by several other states and organizations, we are able to analyze the data and get the results out to the marketplace more quickly,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. “It is our hope that the timely release of these new indicators will encourage California’s hospitals to examine their practices and improve their quality of care and help inform consumers and patients about their healthcare choices.”

Findings from the report show:

- In 2006, 33 hospitals were rated as significantly better than the state average for at least 1 of the 8 mortality indicators, and 98 hospitals were rated worse than the state average.
- In 2007, 25 hospitals were rated better than the state average on at least one indicator, and 94 were rated worse.

While previous OSHPD outcome reports relied on statistical methods and models developed by OSHPD, this report uses indicators developed by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). These indicators are emerging as important national measures of hospital quality and are already being published by many states and quality reporting groups across the country.
OSHPD currently issues hospital quality reports on heart bypass surgery, heart attack, and community-acquired pneumonia. The release of this data comparing the 8 procedures and conditions more that triples the number of procedures reported on by OSHPD. The Department chose to report on the new procedures and conditions, which include Esophageal Resection, Pancreatic Resection, Craniotomy, Acute Stroke, Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage, Hip Fracture, Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty, and Carotid Endarterectomy, as they complement the quality indicators that OSHPD traditionally has reported on and round out the set of conditions and procedures established by AHRQ as relevant inpatient quality indicators.

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is committed to “Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.” OSHPD analyzes and supports the State’s healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical care transparency for Californians. OSHPD also supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures safety of buildings used to provide healthcare, insures loans to develop healthcare facilities, and facilitates development of a sustained capacity for communities to address their healthcare concerns.

Individual hospital information can be accessed at www.oshpd.ca.gov.

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