NEW DATA COMPARES QUALITY OF CARE FOR TWELVE MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

SACRAMENTO – Expanding 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 12 different procedures and conditions.

“California Hospital Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates (RAMR), Total Deaths and Cases, and Quality Ratings for Inpatient Mortality Indicators, 2008-2009” compares mortality rates for various procedures and conditions at hundreds of California hospitals. The report updates a previous report that examined quality of care for procedures and conditions that included stroke, hip fractures and brain surgery. This year’s report includes 4 new mortality indicators: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Repair, Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) and Pneumonia. The indicators are risk-adjusted, taking into account patients’ pre-existing health problems to “level the field” and allow fair comparison among hospitals.

“These Indicators are an invaluable tool that allows county officials, healthcare providers and purchasers to assess the relative value of healthcare delivered to patients,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. “Additionally, they can be used to encourage hospitals to promote quality improvements within their practice.”

For 2009, there are 335 hospitals included in the report. Findings from the report show:

- 119 hospitals were rated “Better” than the statewide observed rate on at least one indicator, and 64 were rated “Worse.”
- 160 hospitals were rated as “Average,” or not significantly different from the statewide observed rate for all 12 indicators.
- 50 hospitals were rated “Worse” on one indicator, 11 hospitals were rated worse on two of the indicators, and 3 hospitals rated worse on three different indicators.
- Concerning the “Better” rating, 61 hospitals were rated “Better” on one indicator, 35 on two of the indicators, 17 on three indicators, and 5 on four indicators. One hospital was rated “Better” on 6 of the 12 indicators.
For 2008, there are 337 hospitals included in the report. Findings from the report show:

- 95 hospitals were rated “Better” than the statewide observed rate on at least one indicator, and 86 were rated “Worse.”

- 167 hospitals were rated as “not significantly” different from the statewide observed rate for all 12 indicators.

- Concerning the “Worse” rating, 58 hospitals were rated “Worse” on one indicator, 20 on two of the indicators, 7 on three indicators. One hospital was rated “Worse” on 4 indicators.

- Concerning the “Better” rating, 59 hospitals were rated “Better” on one indicator, 27 on two of the indicators, 7 on three indicators. Two hospitals were rated “Better” on 4 of the indicators.

Individual hospitals showed relatively consistent performance across the 12 mortality indicators. That is, only a small number of hospitals had “mixed” results—fewer than 12 hospitals in a given year were ranked as “Better” on one indicator and “Worse” on another. In addition, many hospitals showed consistent performance across the two years. Hospitals that scored “Worse” on at least one indicator in 2008 were five times more likely than other hospitals to score “Worse” on at least one indicator in 2009. This was also true for “Better” hospitals in 2008, which were six times more likely to perform “Better” in 2009.

This report uses indicators developed by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and implemented by OSHPD. 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. The updated 2008-2009 report uses an improved version of AHRQ’s software to produce the indicators.

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.