

State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
*Director*

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

December 28, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

Over the last several years, California Children's Services (CCS) has been pleased and honored to work in collaboration with a number of public and private organizations whose mission has been to improve the care for mothers and infants throughout California. Most recently, we have joined forces with the California Perinatal Transport Systems (CPeTS) and the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) to address the need for high quality, accurate data related to neonatal transport for the purpose of re-defining perinatal regionalization in California, and informing quality improvement activities.

Ever since its establishment in 1976, pursuant to the enactment of California Assembly Bill 4439, the CPeTS, formerly known as the Northern and Southern California Perinatal Dispatch Centers, have served to facilitate the appropriate transport of critically ill infants and high-risk mothers to hospitals providing risk-appropriate levels of care. In addition, they have collected and analyzed transport data throughout California to inform regional planning, outreach program development and quality improvement. These data collection efforts were discontinued in 2004, secondary to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliance issues and changing data collection needs.

It is important to remember that all perinatal hospitals are mandated to systematically review and report neonatal transports in California by:

1. CCS Manual of Procedures, Chapter 3 – Provider Standards, Section 3.25 Standards for Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), California Department of Health Services, California Medical Services (CMS) Branch, January 1, 1999.
  - §3.25.1-30 Infant morbidity and mortality data concerning birth weight, survival, transfer, incidence of certain conditions, and other information as required, shall be submitted to the Chief, CMS Branch/CCS Program annually.
  - 4.A.(4) Maintenance of written records of each neonatal transport completed shall be available for review by CCS program staff.
  - 4B. All guidelines and reporting requirements of the Regional Perinatal Dispatch Center (aka CPeTS) shall be followed.

2. California Code of Regulations, Title 22: Social Security, Volume 28, Revised November, 1995. Perinatal Unit General Requirements §70547.

(a4) Formal arrangements for consultation and/or transfer of an infant to an intensive care newborn nursery, or a mother to a hospital with the necessary services for problems beyond the capability of the perinatal unit.

(b) There shall be written policies and procedures developed and maintained by the person responsible for the service in consultation with other appropriate health professionals and administration. These policies and procedures shall reflect the standards and recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Subsequently, CCS has been working closely with CPeTS and CPQCC to overcome the barriers we are currently facing with regard to the collection and analysis of this critical information. As a result of these efforts, the CPeTS Neonatal Transport Data System will resume operation on January 1, 2007, under the management of the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC). This collaboration will optimize data quality and timeliness, and enhance the understanding of transport patterns, outcomes and opportunities for quality improvement in California. It will also improve the availability of timely data reports to both referring and receiving facilities participating in the program.

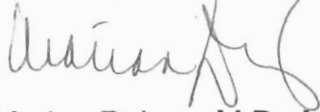
The success of this program depends upon the active participation of all California hospitals delivering newborns, regardless of their CCS or CPQCC membership status. Neonatal transport data collection is the joint responsibility of both the referring and the receiving hospitals and their transport teams. I anticipate and thank you in advance for your center's full participation in this exciting and important opportunity to improve the outcomes for California's mothers and infants. Program materials will be distributed to all perinatal facilities in California by mail in early January 2007. Additional information about this program may be obtained by visiting the CPeTS website at [www.perinatal.org](http://www.perinatal.org) or attending the CPQCC 2007 Data Training Workshops, (schedule posted at [www.CPQCC.org](http://www.CPQCC.org)).

We at CCS are extremely excited about the potential of this project to deepen our understanding of perinatal regionalization and transport in California, as well as adding to the depth and richness of the current CPQCC database that informs our quality improvement efforts.

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We look forward to working closely with you on this important mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marian Dalsey", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch