



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

January 8, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The California Perinatal Transport Systems (CPeTS), formerly known as the Northern and Southern California Perinatal Dispatch Centers was established in 1976 pursuant to the enactment of California Assembly Bill 4439. Since 1976 CPeTS have served to facilitate the appropriate transport of critically ill infants and high-risk mothers to hospitals providing risk-appropriate levels of care. Additionally they have collected and analyzed transport data from throughout California to inform regional planning, outreach program development and quality improvement. As you may remember, the CPeTS data collection system was halted in 2004 in response to changing data collection needs as well as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) compliance issues. Since both the California Code of Regulations, Title 22 and California Children's Services (CCS) mandate that all California hospitals systematically review and report neonatal transports, CPeTS has been working closely with the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning (MCAH/OFP) Branch and CCS to overcome these barriers to the collection and analysis of this critical information.

I am pleased to report that 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 know that you will take this responsibility seriously and facilitate your center's full participation in this exciting and important opportunity to improve the outcomes for California's most vulnerable citizens. 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)).

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I have very high expectations regarding the potential of this project to deepen our understanding of perinatal regionalization and transport in California, as well as adding to the success and significance of our current neonatal/perinatal quality improvement efforts. The MCAH/OFP Branch looks forward to working closely with you on this important mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJS', written over a horizontal line.

Susann J. Steinberg, M.D., Chief

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch

cc: Marian Dalsey, M.C., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

Shabbir Ahmad, D.V.M., Section Chief/Epidemiology  
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch

Karen Ramstrom, D.O. M.P.H