

David M. Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., Director  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 433  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 654-1606  
Fax (916) 653-1448  
www.oshpd.ca.gov

## PRESS RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Patrick Sullivan**  
**(916) 654-1606**

### **CALIFORNIA ISSUES QUALITY OF CARE REPORT ON HEART BYPASS SURGERY OUTCOMES**

#### ***Hospital and Surgeon Ratings Improve Quality of Care Through Greater Transparency***

SACRAMENTO – Consistent with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's call for greater transparency in health care delivery, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released an historic report offering quality ratings for hospitals and surgeons related to coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery outcomes.

The "California Report on Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2003-2004, Hospital and Surgeon Data" provides quality ratings for the 121 hospitals and 302 surgeons performing 40,377 isolated CABG surgeries in California during 2003-2004. This is the second CABG report produced by OSHPD, but the first to detail performance ratings for surgeons.

The report is one example of the kind of transparency in health care the Governor is promoting to improve the quality of care and give consumers, providers and purchasers the information they need to make informed decisions. The Governor's health care reform proposal calls for changes to strengthen the ability of OSHPD to collect, integrate and distribute additional data on health outcomes, costs, utilization and pricing for use by purchasers, health plans, providers and consumers.

"Transparency is the cornerstone of promoting higher quality health care, controlling health care costs and more efficiently managing health care dollars," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "This report encourages patients to become more involved in their health care choices, employers and payers to shop for the best value and hospitals and surgeons to examine their practices and make necessary changes to improve their quality of care."

The report found that overall, four surgeons performed significantly better than the state average, while 12 surgeons performed significantly worse than the state average. Nearly 95 percent of surgeons performed within their expected range. Of the 121 hospitals, four performed significantly better, while six hospitals performed significantly worse. Approximately 92 percent of hospitals performed within their expected range, with an average mortality rate of 3.08 percent for the procedure.

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“California is one of only five states to collect and report CABG outcomes using clinical data,” said Dr. Carlisle. “New York, which pioneered this effort in 1989, has found that their CABG mortality rate has dropped and their quality of care has improved since they began their CABG reporting program.”

The report was authorized by Senate Bill 680, Chapter 898, Statutes of 2001.

Hospitals and surgeons were provided an opportunity to review a preliminary version of their risk-adjusted results and performance ratings prior to release of the report. Surgeons were also able to appeal their results to the Clinical Advisory Panel, a panel appointed by Dr. Carlisle consisting of medical professional and consumer representatives who are responsible for reviewing and making final decisions on disputes.

CABG surgery is the most common major surgical procedure for treating coronary artery disease. In this surgery, a vein or artery from another part of the body is used to create a new path for blood to flow to the heart, bypassing the blocked artery. Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of all adult non-maternal admissions to California hospitals, representing 8.5 percent of all admissions. It is a chronic condition in which cholesterol and fat solidify to form plaque along the linings of the coronary arteries. If plaque continues to build up, blood vessels can be restricted or blocked, leading to chest pain or a heart attack.

As one of 12 departments within the California Health and Human Services Agency, OSHPD’s vision is “Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.” OSHPD is a leader in analyzing the state’s health care infrastructure, promoting a diverse and culturally competent health care workforce, informing the public about health care quality, ensuring the safety of buildings used to provide health care, insuring loans to develop health care facilities and facilitating the development of sustained capacity for communities to address health care issues.

The CABG report is available online at [www.OSHPD.ca.gov](http://www.OSHPD.ca.gov).

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