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### **STATE REPORT RANKS CALIFORNIA HOSPITALS ON HEART BYPASS SURGERY QUALITY**

SACRAMENTO – Advancing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's call for greater transparency in health care delivery, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released its third report on the quality of heart bypass surgery performed at hospitals in California. The "*California Report on Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2005 Hospital Data*" provides quality ratings for the 120 hospitals that performed approximately 17,000 isolated heart bypass surgeries in California during 2005.

The report is an example of the kind of transparency in healthcare the Governor is promoting to improve the quality of care and give consumers, providers and purchasers the information they need to make informed decisions.

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

Highlights of the report include:

- Three hospitals performed the procedure significantly better than the state average: Alta Bates Summit Medical Center-Summit Campus in Oakland, Lakewood Regional Medical Center in Lakewood, and Mercy Medical Center in Redding.
- 114 hospitals performed the procedure as expected.
- Three hospitals performed significantly worse than the state average: Citrus Valley Medical Center – IC Campus in Covina, Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, and Torrance Memorial Medical Center in Torrance.
- The overall operative mortality rate for patients receiving CABG surgery remained unchanged at 3.1%. This includes all deaths in the hospital and up to 30 days post surgery.
- The number of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgeries performed in the state has declined by nearly 12,000 cases since 2000. Many patients with lower risk conditions are receiving angioplasty with stents instead of surgery. Since 2000 the number of angioplasties with stent insertion has increased by more than 8,000.

The report also includes new information on hospital mortality trends over a three year period and gives performance ratings based on hospitals' use of the internal mammary



artery to perform bypass grafts, an additional measure of surgical quality. The internal mammary artery is the preferred graft for such surgeries, since it's proven to extend patients' lives and keep grafted arteries open longer.

Heart bypass surgery is one of the top ten surgeries in California in terms of cost, number of cases, mortality, and hospital revenue generated. It is also the most common major surgical procedure for treating coronary artery disease. Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of all adult non-maternal admissions to California hospitals. 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. Isolated CABG surgery means that no other major procedure such as valve repair was performed at the same time.

Pursuant to state law, OSHPD produces this hospital level report on an annual basis, and includes surgeon level data and quality ratings every other year.

As one of thirteen 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 healthcare infrastructure, promoting a diverse and culturally competent healthcare workforce, informing the public about health care quality, ensuring the safety of buildings used to provide health care, insuring loans to develop healthcare facilities and facilitating the development of sustained capacity for communities to address healthcare issues.

The 2005 coronary artery bypass graft surgery report is available online at [www.OSHPD.ca.gov](http://www.OSHPD.ca.gov).