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REPORT PROFILES DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA HOSPITALS***More than one third of all deaths in California in 2006 occurred in a hospital***

SACRAMENTO – Consistent with Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts to improve California's healthcare system through enhanced data reporting and analysis, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) issues this first in a series of research briefs about the quality and safety of healthcare in California.

"Mortality in California Hospitals, 2006" profiles patient deaths that occur in the hospital. Using OSHPD Patient Discharge Data for 2006 - which includes information for all patients who were hospitalized in California during that year - and death certificate data, the brief examines factors related to increased risk of death such as age, medical diagnosis, and choices around end-of-life care for patients admitted to a California hospital in 2006. It identifies in-hospital mortality rates, top 5 admitting diagnoses of patients that die in-hospital, end-of-life preferences, conditions associated with higher mortality rates, and factors that most strongly predict death.

Findings from the brief include:

- In California, 2/3 of child deaths occur in the hospital, compared with about 1/3 of adult and elderly deaths.
- 2.1% of all California hospital stays end in death, compared to 2.5% for hospital stays nationwide.
- Most child deaths are related to congenital disorders and birth-related problems. For adults and seniors, the most common illnesses of patients dying in-hospital are blood infections, respiratory disease, and stroke.
- Seniors have the highest risk of dying during their hospital stays, while children have the lowest.
- About 1 out of 6 patients with a Do Not Resuscitate Order die during their hospital stay. However, 3 out of 6 admitted for palliative care die in-hospital.

"We hope to help patients and family members become more informed about the healthcare system and more involved in their healthcare choices," stated OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "This is about making the system more transparent and improving consumer access to information."



As one of thirteen departments within California's Health and Human Services Agency, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is committed to "Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California." OSHPD analyzes and supports the state's healthcare infrastructure, promoting transparency of information about medical care 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.

OSHPD's Research Brief can be accessed at
http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HID/Products/Research_Briefs/