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## **STATE RANKS CALIFORNIA HOSPITALS AND SURGEONS ON HEART BYPASS SURGERY PERFORMANCE**

### *QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF SURGEONS AND HOSPITALS IMPROVES CARE FOR PATIENTS*

SACRAMENTO – Advancing Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts for greater transparency in the healthcare delivery system the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released its fourth Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery Report (CABG). This CABG Report measures the performance of all 284 cardiac surgeons who performed 32,586 isolated heart bypass surgeries during 2005 and 2006. Quality ratings are also provided for 121 state-licensed hospitals where the procedures were performed.

Based on the clinical data, in 2006 the overall CABG mortality rate was 2.22%, a 28% reduction from the 3.08% overall rate in 2005. For the 2005-2006 period, the overall mortality rate was 2.65%, a 14% reduction compared to the operative mortality rate of 3.08% recorded in the 2003-2004 period. This reduction in mortality means that 379 fewer lives were lost in 2005-2006 compared to the 2003-2004 period. This report also includes the 2006 hospital ratings for use of the internal mammary artery, an important evidence-based indicator of surgery quality.

"The findings in the report, especially the lower mortality rate, reinforce the benefit and importance of making our healthcare system more transparent and improving consumer access to information on quality and performance," stated OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle.

Highlights of the report include:

- For 2006 five hospitals performed significantly better than the state average: Doctors Medical Center-Modesto Campus, Kaiser San Francisco, Kaiser Sunset, Mercy General Hospital and Pomona Valley Hospital.
- Two hospitals performed worse than expected: San Joaquin Community Hospital and Tri-City Medical Center.
- There was a wide variation in surgeon level CABG Surgery outcomes after adjusting for patients' pre-operative health conditions. Surgeon overall risk-adjusted mortality rates in 2005-2006 ranged from 0% to 100% combined across facilities where they operate. However, 275 of the 284 surgeons (96.8%)



performed within the expected range compared to the state's average mortality rate.

- For 2005-2006, one surgeon's overall performance was significantly better than the state average, while eight surgeons' overall performance was significantly worse than the state average.

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.

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 medical care transparency 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.

The California Report on Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2005-2006 Hospital and Surgeon Data is available online at [www.oshpd.ca.gov](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov)