Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

osHpd

400 R Street, Suite 310
Sacramento, California 95811-6213
www.oshpd.ca.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**October 19, 2010**

**CONTACT: David Byrnes**
**(916) 326-3606**

# STATE REPORT RANKS CALIFORNIA HOSPITALS ON HEART BYPASS SURGERY QUALITY

*Mortality Rates down 19% since mandatory reporting began in 2003*

**SACRAMENTO –** The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) released its fifth "California Report on Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery, 2007 Hospital Data Report." The report contains data from California's 121 state-licensed hospitals that performed 14,756 adult isolated Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) surgeries in 2007.

Since OSHPD began reporting CABG surgery mortality rates in 2003, they have declined 19%, from 2.91% in 2003, to 2.35% in 2007. This reduction in mortality equates to approximately 82 lives saved in 2007 alone. Preliminary data show continued improvement in 2008, with an operative mortality rate of approximately 2.2%.

"Greater transparency in healthcare is having a direct impact on quality of care and is saving lives," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "While most California heart bypass surgery patients receive excellent care with nearly 98 percent of patients surviving the procedure, the report consistently finds hospitals with mortality rates outside the norm, even after accounting for patient conditions prior to surgery."

Highlights of the report include:

- There were 347 operative deaths among 14,756 isolated CABG surgeries (2.35%).
- After adjusting for patients' pre-operative health, 117 of 121 hospitals (96.7%) performed at a rate that did not differ significantly from the statewide average.
- No hospital performed significantly "Better" than the state average in risk-adjusted operative mortality, but four hospitals performed 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 the most common major surgical procedure for treating coronary artery disease. Coronary artery disease is the leading cause of adult non-maternal admissions to California hospitals. It's a chronic condition where cholesterol and fat solidify to form plaque along the linings of the coronary arteries. If plaque builds up, blood vessels can become restricted or blocked, leading to chest pain or a heart attack.

As one of thirteen departments within California's Health and Human Services Agency, OSHPD is committed to "Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California." OSHPD analyzes and supports the state's healthcare infrastructure, promoting medical transparency for Californians. OSHPD supports a diverse and culturally competent workforce, ensures the 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.