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NEW DATA IDENTIFIES RATES OF PREVENTABLE CONDITIONS

SACRAMENTO – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today unveiled new data that identifies hospitalization rates by county for conditions generally considered preventable with access to and use of good primary care.

“Preventable Hospitalizations in California: Statewide & County Trends 1999-2008” provides state and county level hospital admission rates for 14 health conditions. These are conditions for which quality outpatient care or early intervention can potentially prevent the need for hospitalization or complications leading to a more severe illness.

“This new data provides Californians access to information on preventable conditions in their communities such as diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. “Through these prevention quality indicators communities can better focus on planning and shaping systems that better meet community needs.”

Findings from the report show:

- Preventable hospitalizations for ten conditions, including most notably hospitalizations for chest pain, dropped by more than 60 percent, while pediatric gastroenteritis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) declined by more than 40 percent from 1999 to 2008.
- Statewide rate of hospitalizations for hypertension has increased by more than 36% from 1999 to 2008 with most of that increase taking place in the last two years of the analysis.
- Pediatric asthma hospitalization rates in Alameda County are nearly 2.5 times greater than the statewide rate, while hypertension hospitalization rates for the South Service Planning Area (SPA 6) of Los Angeles County are almost 3.3 times greater than the statewide rate.

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development has been collecting inpatient data from all licensed hospitals in California for more than 25 years. These data are used by researchers, government agencies, healthcare providers, and many others to measure utilization, cost, quality, health status and access to care. The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), in partnership with Stanford University



and the University of California developed a set of Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs) based on inpatient hospital data. They provide insight into communities' primary healthcare services outside the hospital by identifying quality of care for "ambulatory care sensitive conditions." These are conditions for which having access to quality outpatient care or early intervention can potentially prevent the need for hospitalization, preventing complications resulting in more severe diseases. Although other factors outside the direct control of the healthcare system, such as poor environmental conditions or lack of patient adherence to treatment recommendations, can result in hospitalization, the PQIs provide a good starting point for assessing the degree to which populations have access to primary care. Using the data it collects, OSHPD has applied the PQIs to analyze California's progress in reducing preventable hospitalizations. The data presented in this analysis can help local communities pinpoint the greatest need and focus attention on the underlying causes of preventable illness.

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 "Preventable Hospitalizations in California: Statewide & County Trends 1999-2008" can be accessed at www.oshpd.ca.gov.