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**NEW QUALITY INDICATOR TOOLS REVEAL TRENDS
IN PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS**

SACRAMENTO – Providing consumers with more options to make informed healthcare decisions, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today released [four new Web tools](#) allowing users quick and easy access in comparing hospitalization and utilization rates for various conditions statewide and by county in five year trend increments.

Building upon and updating the findings from OSHPD's previous Quality Indicators, users can now examine utilization trends for such common procedures as hysterectomies, spinal fusions and coronary angioplasties from 2005-2009.

"Providers, policymakers and others seeking to improve healthcare need easily accessible and scientifically reliable indicators of quality that they can use to flag potential problems, follow trends over time, and identify disparities across communities and regions," said Acting OSHPD Director Stephanie Clendenin. "Through the Prevention Quality Indicators communities can better focus on planning and shaping systems that better meet community needs."

The tool utilizes indicators developed by the federal [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#). These indicators are seen by many as important national measures of hospital quality and are already being published by many states and quality reporting groups across the country. In particular, the AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators can be used to answer a wide array of questions regarding the quality of primary care in a community or region. Comparing admission and utilization rates for conditions and procedures within a county or state sheds light on the quality of care a community receives.

[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.

