



# Matters of Record

## News from the Center for Health Statistics Concerning the Oregon Birth Certificate

Issue: January 2012

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### Physician is attendant at Cesarean section deliveries

Recently, Center for Health Statistics’ staff performed a quality check on birth records, and discovered an issue regarding who is listed as “attendant” on Cesarean section (C-section) births. Many records listed certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife as the “attendant” when the method of birth was C-section. This is not correct. Even if the certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife is assisting with the C-section, neither can be the “attendant.” Why? Because, they are not licensed to perform C-sections. Only a licensed physician (MD or DO) can be listed as “attendant” when C-section is the method of delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn Jackson, Registration Manager, at 971-673-1160 or [joann.jackson@state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@state.or.us). ❖

### Is bigger better? Big babies in Oregon

The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) collects and analyzes birth information for all births occurring in Oregon. The birth data you collect are used for developing public health policies at both state and national levels. Additionally, the data are reported in the *Oregon Vital Statistics Annual Report*, and are used by outside researchers, including news outlets.

Several months ago, a reporter from a major Oregon newspaper contacted our office to determine if a 14-pound baby had set the state record for size. The answer was a resounding “No.” The heaviest baby born in the last five years weighed in at 16 lbs., 15 oz.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Is bigger better?(Continued from page 1)*

Birthweight is often used as an indicator of health, but bigger is not always better. In Oregon, almost 11% of deliveries result in big babies, or babies born weighing more than 4000g (8lbs., 13oz.). Despite major progress in obstetrics, the delivery of large babies remains a source of anxiety for caregivers. These pregnancies put both mother and baby at increased risk for several complications, including birth injury and Cesarean section.

Birthweight information is used by researchers and policymakers. Accuracy is

## House Bill 2380: mother's intended place of delivery

House Bill 2380 went into effect January 1, 2012. Two new questions were added to birth and fetal death records by the Oregon State Legislature. These questions, listed below, will produce data that will be used to form policy and law:

- Did the mother go into labor planning to deliver at home or at a freestanding birthing center? (“Yes,” “No,” or “Unknown”); and,
- If yes, the planned primary attendant type at onset of labor was (the answer is chosen from a list of attendant types)

A freestanding birthing center, according to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-076-0450 “...means any health care facility (HCF), licensed for the primary purpose of performing low risk deliveries.”

Freestanding birth centers are a non-hospital option for a woman who wants to give birth “...away from the mother’s usual residence.”

Staff at the Center for Health Statistics prepared for the additional questions by updating worksheets, instructions, and the OVERS system. We also provided online

important. When entering birthweight, please make sure the unit of measurement is correct - that you listed pounds and ounces, or grams in the correct places in OVERS. When a baby’s delivery weight is listed as over 6000 grams (about 13 pounds) or more, someone from the CHS will call to confirm the information. Verifying the information and making comments in OVERS, such as “birthweight confirmed,” at the time you complete the birth record, eliminates extra work for both birth clerks and CHS staff. ❖



training on the new questions. You can find everything at [1.usa.gov/ORBirthRegistration](http://1.usa.gov/ORBirthRegistration).

The new worksheets must be used for all births and fetal deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2012. Alternatively, the questions can be added to the facility’s own worksheets. The questions must be asked of every delivery patient, even if the answer is usually “no.” A single error can alter the meaning of the data, due to the small number of occurrences, making accurate data entry even more important.

Staff at the Center for Health Statistics will begin analyzing the data in the spring. CHS staff are checking records to confirm the receipt of information. Some facilities may have already been contacted regarding use of the updated questions.

Although House Bill 2380 has already gone into effect, it is not too late to contact us if you have questions. We are always willing to provide birth and fetal death registration assistance. ❖

## OVERS help desk

The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) has offered help desk services to OVERS users since the Electronic Death Registration System began in 2006. We think it is a very useful method of contacting OVERS and other CHS staff with questions on the system. The help desk number appears in the dark blue bar at the upper left of every OVERS page, including the initial log in page. The phone number is 971-673-0279.

Some may be wondering what the OVERS “help desk” actually is. Our help desk is a single office telephone that sits on a small



table in the OVERS unit of CHS. The telephone has the ability to transfer calls to a single line. The

system does not have a rollover sequence where the caller is directed to another CHS staff person. If the person assigned to the help desk is already on a call or has stepped away from their desk for another task, the call will go to voicemail.

### *Who answers the help desk line?*

In the morning, Carolyn Hogg (left) has primary responsibility for the help line, and will assist you or forward your call to someone who can assist. Lynda Jackson (right) is Carolyn’s backup for vacations and other times when Carolyn is away from the office.



In the afternoon, OVERS staff rotate primary responsibility for answering help desk calls and resolving issues or moving calls to someone who can assist the caller. This includes (left to right) Carlos Herrera, Kerry Lionadh, Karen Cooper, Ember Talent, and Karen Hampton.



Although the capacity of our help desk system is limited, all staff pick up messages and return calls as soon as they can. Please leave a message with information about your question or need, and include your name and telephone number so we can return your call effectively. If the OVERS case ID is available, please provide it. The case ID can be very useful for answering questions about specific records.

People often call the help desk line and ask to be transferred to someone in Registration, Amendments, or Certification. The OVERS help desk is available for that purpose. However, calling the person directly might be faster. The CHS has a telephone reference guide that is helpful for determining who to call and is useful as a telephone number reference. Let us know if you would like to receive a copy of the reference guide. We also have managers’ and frequent contacts’ telephone numbers at the end of this newsletter.

The OVERS help desk is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays and state furlough days. ❖

## Place of birth

The purpose of this article is to clear up the confusion surrounding the answer to the “Place of Birth” question on the birth certificate and in the Electric Birth Registration System (EBRS).

Most of the time, place of birth is the birth facility name, whether it is a hospital or a freestanding birthing facility. The address of the place of birth is the facility’s address. If the place of birth is the facility, EBRS will auto fill the facility name and address.

For a baby not born in a hospital, select one of the other options available in EBRS, such as home delivery (planned, unplanned, or unknown if planned), or clinic/doctor’s office. If the place of birth is known, but it is not one of the options in the “Type of Place of Birth” drop-down menu, choose “Other (specify),” and list the place of birth. For example, if the birth occurred in a movie theater, type “movie theater” in the specify field. If the place of birth is unknown, select “Other (specify)” and type “unknown” in the specify field.

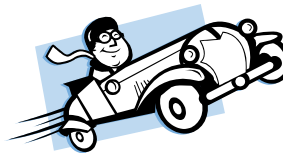
Confusion about what to enter in “Place of Birth” arises when a baby was born en route or when arriving at the hospital. In this situation, select “Other (specify)” from the

## Timeliness update article

Our October 2011 *Matters of Record* included an article entitled, “Timeliness of Filing Birth Records and AOPs.” The article provided an overview of timeliness in filing birth records during June 2011. As a follow-up to that article, we are providing you with more recent information from October 2011 that shows improvements in timeliness.

For records with an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP), the statewide average time

“Type of Place of Birth” drop-down menu in EBRS. In the box labeled “Other (specify),” enter “en route,” then in the “Facility Name” field, enter the facility’s full name, and in the “Address” field, enter your facility’s address.



If a baby was born in transport, but was not en route to the hospital, select “Other (specify)” from the “Type of Place of Birth” drop-down menu in EBRS. In the box labeled “Other (specify),” enter the type of transport in which the baby was born, and in the “Address” fields, enter the address where the baby was removed from transport. This would be the same for a baby born during transport in a foreign country, international waters or foreign airspace, but removed from transport in the United States. For example, if a baby was born on an airplane - whether in US or foreign airspace - and removed from the airplane at Portland International Airport, then “airplane” would be typed in the “Other (specify)” field, and the airport’s address would be entered in the “Address” fields.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia Roeser at 971-673-0478. ❖

period between the child’s date of birth and the date the record was signed in EBRS by a certifier was 5.0 days - faster than the 5.3 days for records filed in June. The range for reporting births with an AOP was 1.0 to 16.9 days - lower than the high of 21 days in June. In October, there were 15 facilities that exceeded five days, an improvement from 19 facilities in the June data.

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*Timeliness update article (Continued from page 4)*

For records without an AOP, the statewide average time period between the child's date of birth and the date the record was signed in EBRS by a certifier was 4.8 days in October, compared to 4.9 days in June. The range for reporting births without an AOP was 1.0 to 17.0 days - a significant improvement from a high of 41.5 days as reported in the June data. The number of facilities that exceeded five days did not improve. In both June and October, there were 22 facilities that filed late.



## **Staff turnover? Let us know**

Are new staff members joining your team? Are staff members leaving your team? If so, it is important to notify the OVERS team in a timely fashion. It is especially important to end OVERS accounts for former employees - until you do, the former employee will still have access to your facility's confidential birth records and could *potentially sign false records*.

When an employee is leaving your facility, you can notify the OVERS team to close the employee's OVERS account by calling, emailing or faxing the Center for Health Statistics.

When a birth clerk needs access to OVERS, request an OVERS enrollment form from the

We hope timeliness can continue to improve for both the entry of birth records into OVERS, and for the mailing of AOP forms. Remember, we can only register the record if the birth has been entered into OVERS by you.

We appreciate the improvements in the timeliness of reporting birth records as noted in this article, and your continued focus on meeting the goal of reporting birth records within the five days as required by law - thank you!

If you have questions, contact our Registration Manager, JoAnn Jackson, at 971-673-1160. ❖

OVERS team by faxing, emailing, or calling the Center for Health Statistics. You can also obtain an enrollment form from the Center for Health Statistics' website: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Pages/NewUsers.aspx>

**Contacting the Center for Health Statistics** - To contact the OVERS team, you can fax forms to Lynda Jackson at 971-673-1201. You can also call the OVERS help desk if you have questions at 971-673-0279. ❖

## Wanted - newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact JoAnn Jackson, Registration Manager, at 971-673-1160 or [joann.jackson@state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@state.or.us).

**Thank you** to the contributors of this newsletter:

James Burke; Joyce Grant-Worley; Karen Hampton; Sarah Hargand; JoAnn Jackson; Lynda Jackson; Kerry Lionadh; Alicia Parkman; Linda Reynolds; Cynthia Roeser; Carol Sanders; Judy Shioishi, and Jennifer Woodward.

Have a question? Try asking one of the helpful CHS staff listed below.

### Frequent Contacts

#### Field Liaison

Judy Shioishi  
971-673-1166

#### Paternities

Debbie Gott  
971-673-1155

#### Birth Corrections

<1 year, Amanda Vega  
971-673-1169  
1+year, Johanna Collins  
971-673-1137

#### Death Corrections

Patty Thompson  
971-673-1163

#### Delayed Filings

Becki Buskirk  
971-673-1147

#### Filiations

Tony Bojanowski  
971-673-1143

#### Adoptions

Debbie Draghia  
971-673-1152

#### OVERS help desk

971-673-0279

### CHS Managers

#### State Registrar

Jennifer Woodward  
971-673-1185

#### Amendments/Certification Manager

Carol Sanders  
971-673-1178

#### Statistics Manager

Joyce Grant-Worley  
971-673-1156

#### Registration Manager

JoAnn Jackson  
971-673-1160

#### OVERS Manager

Karen Hampton  
971-673-1191

#### Data Processing Supervisor

Cynthia Roeser  
971-673-0478

#### Certification Supervisor

Karen Rangan  
971-673-1182

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**Website:** <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/Pages/index.aspx>

**OVERS website:** <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Pages/index.aspx>

