



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the current status of your hospital's compliance with Chapter 412 of the Laws of 1999, which mandates that hospitals report births to women in receipt of Medicaid, Family Health Plus, or services under the Prenatal Care Assistance Program, to the State Department of Health (SDOH), or its designee, within five (5) business days. The New York City Health Department acts as the SDOH designee for New York City hospitals.

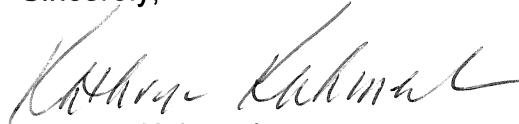
Enclosed is a summary that covers the period January 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004. Review of the timeliness of hospital reporting reveals that your facility is significantly below expected standards. We will continue to monitor your facility's performance, as the SDOH has the responsibility of ensuring compliance. Lack of significant improvement may result in the issuance of a Statement of Deficiency by the SDOH.

Please ensure that your facility's Birth Registrar is aware of the correct procedure for submitting reports of births to women in receipt of Medicaid, Family Health Plus, or Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility, to the SDOH. Births entered on the Statewide Perinatal Data System must be completed and printed for the Medicaid data to be submitted to the SDOH. This applies only to facilities outside of New York City.

We are currently working with the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYNS) and the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) to identify means by which hospitals, especially those that are consistently reporting late, can improve compliance. We will provide follow-up information for hospitals, both to review the statutory obligations and discuss best practices; we also encourage your suggestions.

Thank you for your cooperation in our continuing and joint efforts to assure health care coverage for infants. Please feel free to contact Mr. Martin Conroy, of the Bureau of Hospital and Primary Care Services, at (518) 402-1003, if you have questions specific to the process of sanctioning hospitals for non-compliance: or Mr. David Bacheldor, of the Office of Medicaid Management, at (518) 402-3750, if you have any questions regarding Medicaid policy concerning newborn reporting.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Kuhmerker
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Medicaid Management



David V. Wollner, Director
Office of Health Systems Management

Enclosure