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

January 2011

INSIDE

Oregon Health Authority has arrived 1

Paternity Establishment Percentage Met 1

Refer parents to the State to initiate amendments 4

Does your birth worksheet ask about Registered Domestic Partnership? 5

Midwife Reminders 6

A reminder...Notify us of staff changes 8

OVERS technical tip—adding special characters to names 8

Do not delay signing a birth record 9

Filing fetal death records in OVERS 9

Archived articles: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration

The Oregon Health Authority has arrived

In this edition, you may notice our new Oregon Health Authority (OHA) logo. The State of Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is transitioning into two separate agencies, DHS and the OHA. This transition is taking place gradually and will be completed by July 2011.

The Center for Health Statistics, under the Oregon Public Health Division, will now be part of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). OHA was created by the 2009 Oregon legislature to bring most health-related programs in the state, such as the Public Health Division, Addictions and Mental Health Division, Division of Medical Assistance Programs and the Public Employees Benefits Board, into a single agency. The changes will not disrupt our relationship with our county partners or our services to clients. To learn more about the OHA, visit www.oregon.gov/OHA ❖

Paternity Establishment Percentage Met

Oregon achieved a paternity establishment percentage (PEP) of 92%, greatly exceeding last year and the expectations we had for this year.

Paternity establishment at the hospital continues to be the essential backbone to paternity establishment in Oregon.

Paternity establishment continues to be an important issue in Oregon. Not only is having a second parent on a child's birth certificate significant to the child and parents, the act of paternity establishment itself provides additional benefit

(Continued on page 2)

dollars for distribution to the most needy of families. While we exceeded our goal through the inclusion of an additional type of parentage (adoptions), paternity establishment at the hospital continues to be the essential backbone to paternity establishment in Oregon.

Our thanks to each of you for your daily efforts to inform and assist parents in establishing paternity.

The full table of establishment data by facility follows. We would like to offer special congratulations to the top facilities.

Facilities with **more than 500 births** to unwed mothers annually:

- Sacred Heart at RiverBend, Lane County
- Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Washington County

Facilities with **100 to 499 births** to unwed mothers annually:

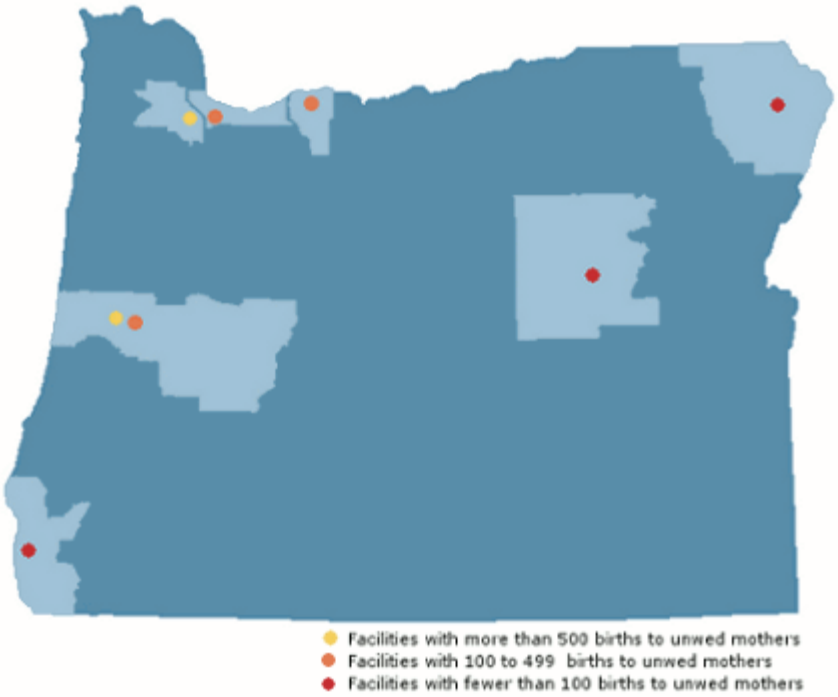
- Legacy Good Samaritan, Multnomah County
- McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, Lane County
- Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, Hood River County

Facilities with **fewer than 100** births to unwed mothers annually:

- Blue Mountain Hospital District, Grant County
- Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Wallowa County
- Curry General Hospital, Curry County

The table on page 3 provides an update on paternity acknowledgments by facility.

Oregon needs facility acknowledgments to average above 80 percent of the current births to meet the federal requirement. The remaining number needed will come from administrative orders, notarized paternity



acknowledgments, and court orders.

We all need to keep up the good work. If you want to increase the number of paternities at your facility, talk with us about how we can work together to establish paternities more effectively.

Call us with any questions or for more information:

Judy A. Shioshi, Vital Records Field Liaison at 971-673-1166

Debbie Gott, Vital Records Paternity Specialist at 971-673-1155

Dale Slater, Child Support Performance Analysis Manager at 503-969-6262 ❖

Paternity establishment by birth facility for 2010 records through November 2010

County	Facility	Total Un-wed Births	AOP signed at the hospital	
		Count	Count	%
Statewide		13414	9831	73.3%
Baker	St. Elizabeth Health Services, Inc.	37	25	67.6%
Benton	Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center	209	163	78.0%
Clackamas	Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center	390	298	76.4%
	Legacy Meridian Park Hospital	164	121	73.8%
	Providence Milwaukie Hospital	195	141	72.3%
	Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center	245	181	73.9%
Clatsop	Columbia Memorial Hospital	117	89	76.1%
	Providence Seaside Hospital	44	23	52.3%
Coos	Bay Area Hospital	246	183	74.4%
	Coquille Valley Hospital	8	3	37.5%
Curry	Curry General Hospital	31	25	80.6%
Deschutes	Bend Birth Center	1	1	100.0%
	Motherwise Community Birth Center	6	4	66.7%
	St. Charles Medical Center - Bend	455	360	79.1%
	St. Charles Medical Center - Redmond	101	80	79.2%
Douglas	Mercy Medical Center, Inc.	347	261	75.2%
Grant	Blue Mountain Hospital District	14	12	85.7%
Harney	Harney District Hospital	23	15	65.2%
Hood River	Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital	122	97	79.5%
Jackson	Ashland Community Hospital	85	61	71.8%
	Providence Medford Medical Center	200	144	72.0%
	Rogue Valley Medical Center	511	379	74.2%
Jefferson	Mountain View Hospital District	81	64	79.0%
Josephine	Three Rivers Community Hospital	304	204	67.1%
Klamath	Sky Lakes Medical Center	314	223	71.0%
Lake	Lake District Hospital	19	14	73.7%
Lane	McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center	192	157	81.8%
	Nurse Midwifery Birth Center	15	15	100.0%
	Peace Harbor Hospital	20	13	65.0%
	Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend	914	691	75.6%
	Sacred Waters Birthing Center	6	5	83.3%
	Sacred Waters Community Birthing Center	1	1	100.0%
Lincoln	Home Sweet Home Birth	4	4	100.0%
	Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital	71	57	80.3%
	Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital	104	77	74.0%

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Paternity establishment by birth facility for 2010 records through November 2010

County	Facility	Total Un-wed Births	AOP signed at the hospital	
		Count	Count	%
Linn	MidValley Birthing Services	1	0	0.0%
	Samaritan Albany General Hospital	235	175	74.5%
	Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital	115	78	67.8%
Malheur	Holy Rosary Medical Center	267	188	70.4%
Marion	Salem Hospital	1188	848	71.4%
	Santiam Memorial Hospital	33	24	72.7%
	Silverton Hospital	647	480	74.2%
Multnomah	Adventist Medical Center	367	265	72.2%
	Alma Midwifery Services	15	11	73.3%
	Andaluz Waterbirth Center - Portland	14	12	85.7%
	Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center	612	410	67.0%
	Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center	151	125	82.8%
	Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center	368	268	72.8%
	Natural Childbirth & Family Clinic	1	1	100.0%
	OHSU Hospitals & Clinics	697	497	71.3%
	Providence Portland Medical Center	679	467	68.8%
Tillamook	Tillamook County General Hospital	61	45	73.8%
Umatilla	Good Shepherd Medical Center	231	169	73.2%
	St. Anthony Hospital	140	103	73.6%
Union	Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc	89	64	71.9%
Wallowa	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	12	10	83.3%
Wasco	Mid-Columbia Medical Center	94	69	73.4%
Washington	Andaluz Waterbirth Center - Tualatin	4	4	100.0%
	Providence St. Vincent Medical Center	1053	792	75.2%
	Tuality Community Hospital	391	291	74.4%
Yamhill	Bella Vie Gentle Birth Center	6	5	83.3%
	Providence Newberg Medical Center	144	111	77.1%
	Willamette Valley Medical Center	202	128	63.4%

Refer parents to the State to initiate amendments

Some County Vital Records' offices and parents have contacted hospitals directly to ask that changes be made to a birth record.

Parents must contact the State Vital Records office directly to add missing names or

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

change names provided to the facility at the time of birth. Sometimes the birth clerk has felt pressured to change parent and child name information even when the hospital was not in error. Amendment requests from a facility sent to CHS (or entered in OVERS) should only reflect data entry errors at the time the birth record was created.

While the majority of amendments submitted relate to name changes or additions, parents should be directed to contact the State Vital Records office for any requested changes.

The documentation and fee required for adding a first or middle name of the child vary by the age of the child. *Changing a name* has different requirements. Please refer all requests to change a child's or parent's name directly to CHS.

Age under 1 year requires a notarized affidavit signed by both parents without any fee.

Age 1 to 7 requires a notarized affidavit signed by both parents and a $30 fee.

Age 7-18 requires a notarized affidavit signed by both parents, an original evidence document over five years old or created before 7th birthday that shows full name of child, date of birth, or age of child, and a $30 fee. If an evidence document cannot be provided, parents must obtain a court order of name change.

Age 18 and over requires a notarized affidavit signed by the registrant, the original evidence document or court order or name change as described above, and a $30 fee.

If you have questions about adding or changing names to birth records when the child is less than one year old, please contact Amanda Vega at 971-673-1169 or email her at Amanda.L.Vega@state.or.us. For children over the age of one, contact Johanna Collins at 971-673-1137, or email her at Johanna.D.Collins@state.or.us. Parents should be directed to these same contacts. ❖

Does your birth worksheet ask about an Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership?

It is very important that the birth worksheet ask a specific question about whether an Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership (ORDP) has been filed when two females are listed as the parents. Two female partners who are in an ORDP may list both partners' names on a child's birth record, *if the ORDP was filed at the county prior to the birth*. If the two female partners do not have an ORDP filed before the birth, only the mother's name can appear on the birth record. ORDP status, like marital status, is self-reported. The mother is always the preferred source of information for the birth certificate.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

CHS sometimes receives requests to remove a second parent from the birth record. Once the partner is listed on a registered record as the second parent, it takes a court order to remove her, even if the mother did not realize the second parent was included on the worksheet. The recommended questions for the legal relationship of the parents are shown below. If you have any questions about your birth worksheet, or whether to list a second parent in a specific situation, please call Cynthia Roeser at 971-673-0478. ❖

LEGAL RELATIONSHIP OF PARENTS

Were you married (did you have a legal husband) at conception, at birth, any time between or within 300 days prior to this birth? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please complete the following Father/Second Parent section with information about your husband.

If not married, are you in an Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please complete the Father/Second Parent section with your partner's information.

If you were married or in an Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership at any of the times above, only your husband or partner can be listed as the legal parent of your child without a court or administrative order.

If not married or not in an Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership, will you and the father sign a paternity acknowledgment to establish legal paternity at this time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If a paternity acknowledgment will be signed, please complete the Father/Second Parent section.

Midwife Reminders

As a partner in filing birth certificates in the state of Oregon, midwives share a common mission of accurately filing a completed birth certificate within 5 days after the birth of the child. There are many reasons to file timely and accurate birth certificates including ensuring a child can quickly receive needed benefits and providing accurate data for health statistics. Oregon law is clear on who is responsible for filing the birth certificate. However, sometimes a lack of information about what is required and how midwives file birth certificates in Oregon causes unnecessary delays in the process. We hope to clarify some points to help midwives file certificates within the five-day window. The purpose in having our midwife partners register with CHS is to:

- Document the understanding and

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

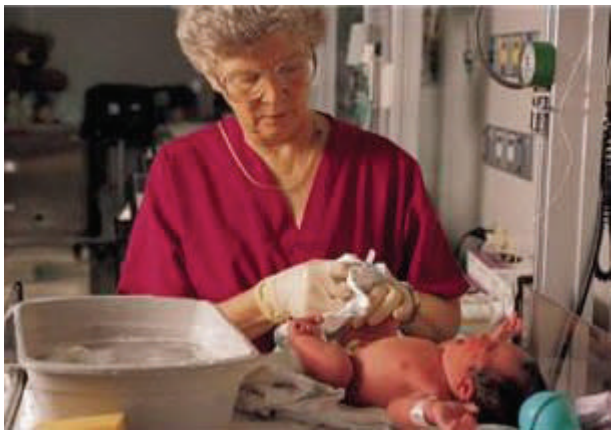
acceptance of the legal responsibility of filing a birth certificate for midwives not licensed by another Oregon agency;

- Ensure access to the most current information and forms when filing births; and
- Foster good relationships with our midwife partners by providing training on the birth certificate and being available to answer questions so that each birth certificate is accurate. This will eliminate amending a record after it is registered, saving both time and money.

We have two designations for midwives. The first is licensed direct entry midwives (LDM). A LDM has been licensed by the Oregon Midwifery Board. You can access their Web site at http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA/DEM. Currently licensed midwives need only designate LDM on any birth certificate filed with us, so we can confirm eligibility to file the birth without additional documentation.

The second designation is a direct entry midwife (DEM), formerly called lay midwife. DEMs must be registered with CHS regardless of other affiliations or certification to be able to register births without additional documentation. Each birth certificate received from a DEM is checked to confirm current registration with CHS.

While we do not require LDMs to register with CHS, we highly recommend doing so. We publish newsletters on a regular basis and notify birth certifiers of updates to forms and instructions as needed. These are sent to all midwives registered with CHS. To register as a DEM or LDM, please contact Lynda Jackson at 971-673-1164. Lynda will provide information about the registration process including the required form. Toward the end of each year, you will receive a form from us so that you can re-register, and update any pertinent information.



If a DEM who is required to register with CHS does not renew his or her registration, he or she will be marked inactive as a birth certifier. This means the DEM would not be able to file birth certificates without the additional documentation required for out of facility births for any births attended prior to the renewal of the registration.

Please feel free to call Lynda Jackson with any questions or visit our Registration Web site at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration/index.shtml ❖

A reminder…….Notify us of staff changes

When new staff need access to OVERS, two things are required:

- A completed enrollment form including identification; and
- A letter from the facility authorizing access to the facility's records.

You can obtain an enrollment form from the Center for Health Statistics Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/status.shtml#Accessing_OVERS. You can also request an OVERS enrollment form from the OVERS team by faxing, e-mailing, or calling the Center for Health Statistics.

When an employee is leaving your facility, you must notify the OVERS team to close the employee's OVERS account. It is important to end OVERS accounts for former employees because as a web-based system, the former employee could still access your facility's confidential birth records until you do.

You can call the OVERS helpdesk if you have questions at 971-673-0279. ❖

OVERS technical tip - adding special characters to names

Special characters are letters that have marks, known as a *diacritical mark*, associated with them. Diacritical marks are symbols that are placed on a letter to indicate that it has a different pronunciation or a different meaning than it would otherwise. For example, in the name Nuñez the second letter "n" has a diacritical mark over it.

The OVERS system will allow you to enter and search for names that contain some of the most common international letters with diacritical marks.

Special characters can be typed by holding down the **Alt** key while also typing the 4-digit number code corresponding with the character. For instance, if you want to type the name Nuñez, you would first type the letters N and u. To type the ñ you would hold down the **Alt** key while typing the numbers 0241. Once you have typed the special character, you can complete the name by typing as usual.

The table below contains a complete list of the special characters available in OVERS with their corresponding keyboard codes. Special characters that do not appear in the list should not be used in OVERS. ❖

Special characters allowed in OVERS

	Code		Code		Code		Code
Á	Alt+0193	Ê	Alt+0202	Ñ	Alt+0209	Ú	Alt+0218
á	Alt+0225	ê	Alt+0234	ñ	Alt+0241	ú	Alt+0250
Â	Alt+0194	Ë	Alt+0203	Ó	Alt+0211	Û	Alt+0219
â	Alt+0226	ë	Alt+0235	ó	Alt+0243	û	Alt+0251
Ä	Alt+0196	Í	Alt+0205	Ô	Alt+0212	Ü	Alt+0220
ä	Alt+0228	í	Alt+0237	ô	Alt+0244	ü	Alt+0252
Ã	Alt+0195	Î	Alt+0206	Ö	Alt+0214	Ý	Alt+0221
ã	Alt+0227	î	Alt+0238	ö	Alt+0246	ý	Alt+0253
É	Alt+0201	Ï	Alt+0207	Õ	Alt+0213	Ÿ	Alt+0159
é	Alt+0233	ï	Alt+0239	õ	Alt+0245	ÿ	Alt+0255

Do not delay signing a birth record because of the other registry information

As a birth clerk, you are most likely familiar with the OVERS menu links available under the other registries section of the birth registration menu.

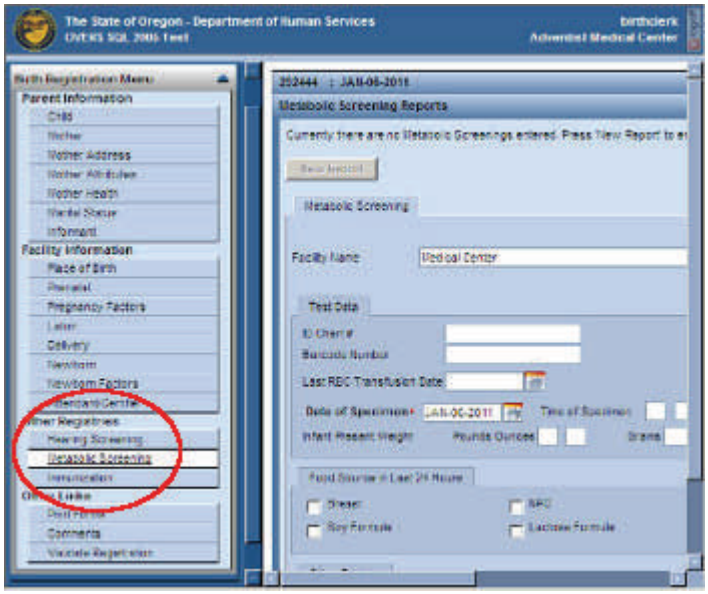
The first link displayed under the other registries section is the metabolic screening link. The metabolic screening page allows entry of one or more metabolic screenings per child.

The second link is the immunization report link. This link allows the user to create new or edit existing immunization reports.

The third link, called hearing screening, allows you to add or edit the results of a hearing screening. Not all birth clerks see the hearing screening link. If a hospital has designated staff other than birth clerks to enter hearing screening results, the birth clerks will not see the link.

How do these screens impact the birth registration process and are they available for entry after the record is certified?

Since birth records must be certified by signing within five days of the date of birth, we request that you not delay signing the birth certificate while waiting for the other



registries to be completed. While these three registries hold important information related to the child's healthcare, the information is not part of the birth certificate. This allows the metabolic screening, hearing screening, and immunization pages to remain open and available after the birth certificate is signed and registered. ❖

Filing fetal death records in OVERS

For those of you still using paper to file fetal death records, we urge you to switch to electronic filing through OVERS. OVERS is the secure, free system facilities must already use for birth records. Like birth, using OVERS for fetal deaths improves accuracy and saves time.

Common errors made when filing fetal death records via the paper process can be avoided by using OVERS. Examples of these errors include:

- Listing more than one cause in the "initiating cause" section.
- Repeating the initiating cause in the "other significant cause" section.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- Writing "unknown" in fields that should be left blank or answered "yes" or "no".
- Skipping required fields.

On a paper record, these errors may not be noticed until it is entered at the Center for Health Statistics (CHS). Then CHS staff must contact the person that created the paper record to fix these errors. Errors costs you and our office time and delays registration that might affect the parents.

Use of OVERS can prevent many of these errors. For instance, a fetal record cannot be finished in OVERS if a required field is left blank. OVERS also contains helpful edit messages to alert you if more than one cause is entered within the "initiating cause" section and avoids duplicate data entry.

Using OVERS also helps accuracy which is important because:

- A fetal death record serves as documentation for the family.
- Fetal death data can help reveal health trends or health problems in specific populations.
- Fetal death data informs public health policy and prevention strategies.

Many of you are already using OVERS for fetal death records, but CHS would like those numbers to grow. As of October 2010, 84% of the 2010 fetal records had been filed electronically using OVERS. More than half (60%) of facilities are currently filing all fetal death records in OVERS.

If you would like help with a fetal death record in OVERS, please call the OVERS help desk at 971-673-0279 and we will walk you through the process. There is also a guide on our Web site at: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/docs/ebrs_ch3.pdf .

❖

As of October 2010, 84% of the 2010 fetal records had been filed electronically using OVERS. More than half (60%) of facilities are currently filing all fetal death records in OVERS.

Wanted—Newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact Judy Shioshi at 971-673-1166 or Judy.Shioshi@state.or.us. Judy collects ideas for articles and then shares them with the writing team.

Thank you to the editor and writers who contributed to this newsletter:

Mary Ann Jensen, Karen Rangan, Cynthia Roeser, Carol Sanders, Becki Buskirk, Karen Hampton, Amanda Vega, Ember Talent, Kerry Lionadh, JoAnn Jackson, Lynda Jackson, Tom Peterson, Alicia Parkman, Judy Shioshi, Karen Cooper, Debbie Gott, Caroline Hogg, and Jennifer Woodward.

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

Frequent Contacts

Field Liaison
Judy Shioshi
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

CHS Managers

State Registrar
Jennifer Woodward
971-673-1185

Amendments/Certification
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
Cynthia Roeser
971-673-0478

Certification Supervisor
Karen Rangan
971-673-1182

The Center for Health Statistics' office is located at:

800 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 225 Portland, OR 97232-2162
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14050
Portland, OR 97293-0050
971-673-1180

Web site: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/

OVERS Web site: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/