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Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

DATE: August 9, 2021

TO: All licensed physicians and all staff attending newborns in the state of California

RE: Change in reporting requirement for infants diagnosed with rhesus (Rh) isoimmunization hemolytic disease of the newborn (Rh-HDN)

Since the 1970s, California law has required all licensed physicians and surgeons or other persons attending a newborn infant diagnosed with rhesus isoimmunization hemolytic disease of the newborn (Rh-HDN) to report the condition to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on report forms provided by CDPH's Genetic Disease Screening Program (or the predecessors of these state entities). **The statutory language requiring Rh-HDN reporting was recently repealed.**

Section 125075 of the California Health and Safety Code was repealed per Assembly Bill 133, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on July 27, 2021. Population-based surveillance of Rh-HDN dates back to 1970, when the disease was a major public health concern. The original intent of the statute was to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with Rh-HDN. Fortunately, Rh-HDN is now a rare event and the disease is no longer a leading cause of death in California.

We thankfully acknowledge you and your colleagues' efforts to report Rh-HDN for more than 50 years. We hope the removal of this reporting requirement will allow staff to focus resources on other important causes of death and disability in California.

To summarize: **reporting of Rh-HDN is no longer required as of July 27, 2021.** If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa Feuchtbaum, Chief, Program and Policy Branch, Genetic Disease Screening Program (Lisa.Feuchtbaum@cdph.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Connie Mitchell, MD, MPH
Deputy Director, Center for Family Health
California Department of Public Health

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