



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

Dear Health Care Professional:

Please accept our sympathy on the death of your patient to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

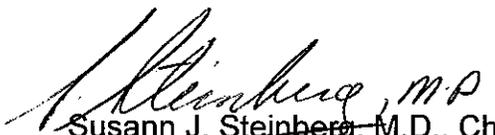
This is a reminder that California State law mandates that a public health nurse (PHN) provide support services to SIDS families including: assessment, crisis intervention/referral, grief support, and SIDS educational information. A letter identifying the name of your patient and introducing your local SIDS public health nurse is enclosed in this packet. Please contact the PHN should you have any questions or need additional information.

We are fortunate in California to have a number of excellent SIDS parent support groups throughout the state. For most SIDS parents, the support offered by someone who has been through this tragedy and has survived it, is tremendously reassuring. Therefore, we suggest that you provide your patient's family with the address and phone number of their local SIDS parent support group. Please refer to the enclosed listing to obtain information regarding support meeting locations, times and services provided by SIDS parents who have been trained as peer counselors.

We have also enclosed a variety of informational materials about SIDS, including the "Back to Sleep" recommendations to reduce the risks of SIDS. We hope that you will educate all of your patients about these important infant care practices, particularly placing babies to sleep on their backs and avoiding exposure of infants to any cigarette smoke.

If you need additional information, have any questions, or would like to order any materials, please feel free to contact the California SIDS Program at (800) 369-SIDS (7437).

Sincerely,


Susann J. Steinberg, M.D., Chief
Maternal and Child Health Branch

Enclosure