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Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 30, 2008

AFL 08-47

TO: General Acute Care Hospitals
Acute Psychiatric Hospitals

SUBJECT: Notice of Closure, Relocation, or Elimination of Services

AUTHORITY: Assembly Bill (AB) 2400 (Price, Chapter 459, Statutes of 2008)

This letter is being sent to notify you of new legislation effective January 1, 2009, which affects hospitals that are closing, relocating, or eliminating services.

AB 2400 establishes that not less than thirty (30) days prior to the closure of a facility, the elimination of a supplemental service, defined in Title 22, Chapter 1 of Division 5 Section 70067, or the relocation of a supplemental service, the facility shall provide public notice of the proposed closure or elimination. As stated in the new legislation, the required notice is to include a notice posted at the entrance to all affected facilities, in addition to the notice to the department and the board of supervisors of the county in which the health facility is located. AB 2400 does not apply to county hospitals subject to Section 1442.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

The new legislation requires that the public notice is to include the following information:

- A description of the proposed closure, elimination, or relocation. The description shall be limited to publicly available data, including the number of beds eliminated, if any, the probable decrease in the number of personnel, and a summary of any service that is being eliminated, if applicable.
- A description of the three nearest available comparable services in the community. If the health facility closing these services serves Medi-Cal or Medicare patients, this health facility shall specify if the providers of the nearest available comparable services serve these patients.
- A telephone number and address for each of the following, where interested parties may offer comments:
 - The health facility.
 - The parent entity, if any, or contracted company, if any, that acts as the corporate administrator of the health facility.
 - The chief executive officer.

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If you have any questions, please contact your respective District Office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Kathleen Billingsley, R.N.

Kathleen Billingsley, R.N.
Deputy Director
Center for Health Care Quality