

January 25, 2017

Dear Health Care Professional:

January is Birth Defects Awareness Month. As you may know, birth defects are one of the leading causes of infant mortality, and the costs (both monetary and non-monetary) to individuals, families, communities, and the health care industry are substantial. Birth defects affect about one in every 33 babies born in Indiana each year and with the recent link between prenatal viral exposures (i.e. Zika) and the resulting neurological disorders, it is as important as ever to accurately identify the presence of birth defects.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that **Indiana law (IC 16-38-4) requires all health care providers to report children who are diagnosed with at least one birth defect in your office to the Indiana Birth Defects and Problems Registry (IBDPR).** The IBDPR collects information on all children in Indiana from birth to age three with reportable congenital anomalies (up to age five for fetal alcohol syndrome, or FAS) and all individuals with a pervasive developmental disorder including autism. This information is used to monitor the frequency of birth defects in Indiana, detect trends and clusters, develop educational and prevention programs, and establish referral systems.

Reports from health care providers are a vital part of ascertaining this information. **In order to comply with the law, physicians, audiologists, and other health care providers must report children who are diagnosed with birth defects in their offices to the Indiana Birth Defects and Problems Registry.** Reports from your office will be automatically entered into the IBDPR database as confirmed diagnoses and assist the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) in providing timely, appropriate follow-up information and education to families.

ISDH has developed a web-based Physician Birth Defects Reporting System for health care providers to utilize. The reporting system is available at <https://gatewayp.isdh.in.gov/Gateway/RegisterUser.aspx>. **At this time, all health care providers are encouraged to create an account with the State Health Gateway Portal.** Instructions for accessing the State Health Gateway Portal and creating your account are attached. Reportable conditions with the corresponding ICD-10-CM codes are listed at [http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Reportable_Conditions_12-19-14\(1\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Reportable_Conditions_12-19-14(1).pdf). Additional information about the IBDPR, including data and statistics, can be found on the ISDH Genomics Program website at www.birthdefects.in.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Ruwanthi Silva at (317) 233-7571 or asilva@isdh.IN.gov.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in reporting birth defects to the IBDPR.

Sincerely,



JEROME M. ADAMS, MD, MPH
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Attachment