Effective dates of changes.

To accommodate these reporting changes, the computer software used to complete birth certificates is being revised. However, since the revised software will not be in place at every California birthing hospital by January 1, 2005, hospitals are to report as follows:

- If the hospital's computer software has been revised, use the new VS 10A (Rev. 01/05) rules to complete certificates for 2005 births;
- If the hospital does not use a computer to complete birth certificates, use the new VS 10A (Rev. 01/05) rules to complete certificate for 2005 births;
- If the hospital's computer software has not been revised, continue to use the current VS 10A (Rev. 01/90) rules to complete certificates for 2005 births until the hospital's computer software is revised to accommodate the new reporting changes.

Item 25D changes.

The number of codes for Principal Source of Payment for Prenatal Care has been reduced from 15 to 8.

Item 28A changes.

Instead of choosing among 6 codes and 5 possible code combinations for Cesarean/vaginal delivery, one of 14 individual codes will be selected. Among these codes, new information will be collected on attempted trial of labor for a Cesarean birth and vacuum assistance for a Cesarean birth.

New questions under Method of Delivery have been added to collect information on the number of Cesarean deliveries the mother had prior to this delivery, fetal presentation at birth, and whether an unsuccessful attempt was made to deliver vaginally with forceps and/or vacuum.

Item 28B changes.

The number of codes for Expected Principal Source of Payment for Delivery has been reduced from 14 to 9.

Worksheet distribution.

Revised worksheets are enclosed and an additional supply will be mailed to local registration districts. Local registrars are to distribute a supply of the new worksheet to the hospitals. The new revision is to be used for births occurring on or after January 1, 2005 as described in "Effective dates of change" above.