

## **Birth Registration Awards presented to 39 Minnesota Hospitals**

Rice Memorial Hospital was one of thirty-nine Minnesota hospitals that received a 2008 “Excellence in Birth Registration” award from the Office of the State Registrar in the Minnesota Department of Health. The awards were presented at the second annual “Excellence in Birth Registration” training conference on April 29, 2009, in St. Paul. The awards recognize hospitals for their accurate and timely registration of newborns through the state’s electronic registration system.

During 2008, 72,216 babies were born in Minnesota at one of the state’s 109 birthing facilities. Essential information is required to be filed for each birth with the Minnesota Department of Health. Birthing facilities that received awards met or exceeded important criteria, including completion of 92 percent of all birth registrations within five days of the birth.

In addition to launching the recognition awards program, the conference emphasized the importance of collecting and reporting quality data. “We applaud all of the hospitals that received this award,” said Minnesota commissioner of health Dr. Sanne Magnan. “These hospitals are not only demonstrating a commitment to providing timely and accurate data, but they are contributing valuable information for protecting and improving the public’s health.”

Birth data are used in many ways. The data can influence planning for maternal and child health and assist in pinpointing geographic areas that may benefit from additional public health measures. For example, information about immunization and tobacco use during pregnancy are included in the birth data collection process.

Each award recipient also was required to comply with quality standards set by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), in six key areas.



*Sandi Slagter, Ward Clerk, Women’s and Children’s Unit, accepts the award for Rice Memorial Hospital from Steven Elkins, State Registrar, Minnesota Department of Health.*