

## Electronic Birth Registration

### Importance of Birth Certificate Medical Information

We all want Oklahoma babies to be safe and healthy. Many things can help and everyone can play a role. But there are significant obstacles that we must overcome.

- In 2007, Oklahoma ranked 46th in its infant mortality rate of 8.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- A preterm birth rate of 13.4% earns Oklahoma a grade of F from the March of Dimes 2010 Premature Birth Report Card.
- The African-American prematurity rate in Oklahoma is 18.7%.
- In 2007, Oklahoma ranked 39th in its cesarean delivery rate of 34.2% and it is increasing.

These facts demonstrate that Oklahoma's outcomes for mothers and babies are not what they should be. Several factors contribute to this:

- The prematurity rate in Oklahoma has increased by about 30% over the last

two decades. This is the #1 reason in our state for babies dying in their first month of life.

- Pregnant women who smoke or who are exposed to second-hand smoke expose their babies to harmful chemicals that can have a lifelong impact. Smoking during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among mothers and infants.
- Being healthy before and between pregnancies greatly improves the chances of having a healthy baby. Presently, Oklahoma ranks 46th nationally for health.
- Breastfeeding helps babies get the best start in life, helping children reach their full potential for health and growth.
- Getting tested and treated, if needed, for infections promotes a healthy pregnancy and birth.

An important tool for addressing these issues is "data." We must know the specific

nature of problems to know what steps to take to address them. Much of these data come from the medical information section of the birth certificate. Questions in this section address all of the examples previously listed and more.

The more accurate and timely these data are submitted, the more effective it will be for developing policies and procedures; for providing resources, technical assistance, and consultation; and for monitoring health care services and health status of target populations. The medical information section of the birth certificate is vital to the future of healthy babies.



### Every Week Counts Improving Oklahoma's Perinatal Outcomes

As of March 31st, 51 Oklahoma birthing hospitals have joined in a collaborative effort to eliminate elective deliveries in women who have not reached 39 weeks of gestation.

There are long-standing recommendations against this practice, yet recent studies indicate that elective deliveries undertaken at < 39 weeks may

account for 10-15% of all births in the U.S. In a recent survey of Oklahoma birthing hospitals, 37% did not address gestational age when an elective induction or planned cesarean birth is scheduled. Recent studies also indicate that the first-time cesarean birth rate is rising. Early elective deliveries are associated with increased neonatal morbidities with no

benefit to the mother or infant.

This collaborative will use a toolkit that includes best practice articles and protocol tools to improve outcomes involving inductions and cesarean births. There is no cost to join. Other hospitals can join before April 15th. Please contact Barbara O'Brien at 405-271-7777 for more information.

#### ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

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#### ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



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We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate  
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of  
Health.

## Timeliness of Birth Certificate Submissions

ROVER is a wonderful tool for birth certificate registration. It prevents many of the mistakes that we commonly see on paper submissions. However, it cannot prevent EVERY problem involved in the registration process. The timeliness of birth record submissions is one of those problems.

We have discovered that some birth facilities are delaying their record submissions. Many of these involve paternity situations where the facility has elected to wait for the mother/parents to return to the facility and sign the signature page. Please please please, do not hold birth certificates for any reason. If the mother or family cannot complete the birth certificate with you, they will simply have to complete it with us.

### Field Services Update

Jan and Sherrie have already visited 12 birth hospitals this year. They have provided ROVER Birth training, supplies, answers to questions, and all around support.

We constantly try to improve the resources we provide to the vital records industry. Our newest project is to have ROVER tutorials on our agency's website. Right now there is only one tutorial available, but others will soon follow. Go to <http://vrtraining.health.ok.gov>, then go to the left side of the page and click Tutorials at the bottom.

Please let us know if you would like to receive a visit from us. We would be happy to come see you. Otherwise, if we're headed your way and time allows, we might drop by anyway to see if there's anything to help with!

### Review the ROVER News Messages

Be sure to review the ROVER News Messages located on the right side of the Home Page. This is where we share important information, such as when ROVER will be off line for servicing or upgrades.

### Entering Multiple Births in ROVER

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Carefully answer the plurality questions in ROVER for multiple births! Pay attention to Items 24 (Pregnancy History), 45 (Plurality), and 46 (If Not Single Birth). These items must "match" to link the births.

Let's say you have twins and the mother has not been pregnant before. For the first baby, enter "0" in all fields in Item 24 (she's never had a baby before this one). Enter "2-twins" in Item 45 and how many will live births. Enter the birth order for this baby in Item 46 ("1-first").

After saving the first baby's record, respond appropriately to

the Multiple Events Option on the Successful Transaction Page! This links the multiple births and causes auto-populating of identical data. Failure to do this results in ROVER thinking there is a duplicate record.

For the second baby, enter "1" in Item 24 in the appropriate fields (she had a baby before this one). Item 45 would still indicate twins, but enter "2-second" in Item 46.

Inaccurate responses will cause the "plurality math" to be wrong. ROVER will detect this, but will not know which entry is in error. This will cause a multitude of edits to appear!

OSDH is on the  
web at  
[health.ok.gov](http://health.ok.gov)

## Every Week Counts

### Improving Oklahoma's Perinatal Outcomes

Quality Improvement Collaborative  
2011

