



New Legislative Requirements: SIDS and Sickle Cell

Among the many changes and updates affecting health care providers made during the 81st Texas Legislative Session, two of those specifically impacting obstetricians and family practice physicians who provide prenatal care and attend deliveries are highlighted below:

HB 1510, Effective September 1, 2009: **Prenatal Education/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Education.** This bill requires information about SIDS to be included in the resource packet provided to parents or caretaker of an infant by a hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse midwife, or midwife. The Department of State Health Services is required to update this pamphlet by January 1, 2010. The providers listed above are to begin providing the updated brochure by March 1, 2010. Brochures are available for download at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/Parents_of_newborn.shtm.

HB 1672, Effective May 27, 2009: **Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Trait.** This bill amends the Health and Safety Code to include sickle-cell trait in the newborn screening program and to develop a disclosure statement for the parent, managing conservator, or guardian of a newborn child relating to the management and use of genetic material used in newborn screenings. This testing can be declined in a written statement by the parent, managing conservator, or guardian. The bill sets out requirements and procedures for the form, content, and distribution of the form. As of November 2009, no further information is available on the SDHS website regarding this bill. API will continue to monitor and make information available.