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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**REDLANDS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IS ONE OF TOP 104 HOSPITALS IN CALIFORNIA TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR REDUCING C-SECTION RATES**

*Hospital Participates in Nationwide Effort to Reduce Unnecessary C-section*

**REDLANDS, Calif.** (Oct. 26, 2016) – This week, Health and Human Services Secretary Diana Dooley recognized Redlands Community Hospital as one of the top 104 hospitals in the State for meeting or exceeding a federal goal for reducing Cesarean births for first-time moms with low-risk pregnancies.

Secretary Dooley on Wednesday announced the achievement awards to the hospitals on behalf of Smart Care California, a coalition of public and private health care purchasers that collectively cover more than 16 million people statewide — or 40 percent of all Californians.

“Patient safety is our primary concern at Redlands Community Hospital and this recognition by the State is a testament to our maternity department’s commitment to providing women with exceptional care,” said Jim Holmes, president and CEO of Redlands Community Hospital. “We have worked in collaboration with our physicians, nurses and maternity support staff to reduce our c-section rates for the benefit of both mothers and their babies.”

The federal goal is to lower the C-section rate for low-risk, first-time births to 23.9 percent by 2020.

Hospitals now have more incentive and more support than ever to bring down their C-section rates. Last spring, with funding from the California Health Care Foundation, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) produced a toolkit to help hospital care teams to better support vaginal delivery.

“One of the most important things we can do to make California’s health care system smarter is to help hospitals, physicians and nurses ensure that C-sections are only performed when medically necessary,” Dooley said. “Today’s award recipients represent an honor roll of California hospitals and their clinicians who are leading the way toward safer births and healthier babies and mothers.”

Even low-risk pregnancies can result in complications, and when these occur, C-sections can save lives. However, medical experts say that this procedure is performed too often when not medically indicated.

Some of the risks associated with C-sections include bleeding, infection, blood clots and injury to other organs. Experts say that after a woman has had the surgery, she is very likely to have future C-section births, and that brings the risk of additional complications.

For more information about Redlands Community Hospital, please visit:

[www.redlandshospital.org](http://www.redlandshospital.org) or call (909) 335-5500.

***Redlands Community Hospital is an independent not-for-profit, stand-alone hospital.***

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