

October 9, 2023

Dear NICU Medical Director,

The California Children's Services (CCS) data tell us that statewide, 88% of inborn Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) admissions at 34 weeks' gestation or greater, and 70% of all inborn NICU admissions, are *not* characterized by high illness acuity. That is, these are Lower Acuity Inborn NICU Admits (LAINA). Providing a structured overview of this large portion of the NICU service population contributes importantly in our continuing efforts to optimize care for the babies CCS serves.

As a result, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) requests that California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) include in the data entry form used to populate your CCS LAINA report, the "All NICU Admits database," the total number of NICU admissions and their length of stay, stratified by birth weight and gestational age categories. These data elements provide valuable interpretative context for the LAINA data elements and derived variables and enable NICU leadership to quantify, rather than guess, their proportional inborn acuity mix.

CCS Standards for Regional NICUs, Chapter 3.25.1, section K.7; Community NICUs, Chapter 3.25.2, section K.7; and Intermediate NICUs, Chapter 3.25.3, section K.6, specify CCS NICU data reporting requirements including the option to submit this data via CPQCC.

If you need assistance with data submission into the CPQCC All NICU Admits Database, please submit a help ticket at [www.cpqcchelp.org](http://www.cpqcchelp.org).

Sincerely,

Joseph Schulman, MD MS  
Associate Medical Director  
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Department of Healthcare Services

