

CALIFORNIA CANCER REPORTING SYSTEM

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is mandated under state law (Health and Safety Code, Section 103885) to gather information on the amount and type of cancer occurring throughout the state. The purpose of the law is to help identify preventable causes of cancer.

For the system to be useful, it must obtain complete and accurate counts of all new cancers that occur. Therefore the law requires hospitals and physicians to notify the appropriate regional cancer registry of each new case of cancer.

The information collected is confidential under California Health and Safety Code Sections 100330 and 103885, Civil Code, Sections 56.05 and 1798, Government Code, Sections 6250-62-65, and Federal Law PL 104-191. CDHS has more than 50 years experience in handling confidential records. Laws, regulations and programmatic safeguards are in place throughout the system to assure that the identities of patients are not revealed. Some cancer patients may, however, be contacted later by CDHS or the regional cancer registries as part of their ongoing investigations into the causes of cancer.

