



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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April 1, 2016

It is time to complete the cooperative 2015 DSHS/AHA/THA Annual Survey of Hospitals (ASH) and Annual Statement of Community Benefits form (ASCB). In an effort to reduce the reporting burden on Texas hospitals, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Hospital Association (THA), and the American Hospital Association (AHA) approved the combination of the ASH and the ASCB survey forms into a single questionnaire.

The joint 2015 ASH-ASCB survey is available online. The questions remain the same but the web-based tool will enable you to submit data online, making it easier and more efficient for you to respond. This enhancement offers benefits such as instant data verification and real-time reports, and ensures accuracy of your entry before submission.

The documents labeled Getting Started, Walk-through the 2015 AHA Annual Survey, Overview, and Frequently Asked Questions are located from our web site <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/>. Please forward this packet to the designated Survey Coordinator provided on the attached Getting Started sheet. All future communications about the online tool will be sent to the Coordinator. If you have not identified this person as your ASH-ASCB Coordinator, we will continue to send any communication and/or updates directly to you. If you would like to designate a Survey Coordinator for your facility, please contact Dwayne Collins at (512) 776-7261 or E-mail: dwayne.collins@dshs.state.tx.us.

The internet address for entering your data into the ASH-ASCB survey is: www.ahasurvey.org or www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/. You may print a work copy from our web site, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/>.

State laws (Health and Safety Code, Chapters 104, 311C, D, and 311.045(f)) require DSHS to collect aggregate financial, utilization, and other data from all licensed hospitals. Therefore, it is extremely important that all sections of the survey be completed fully and accurately.

According to the rules adopted by the Texas Board of Health and Human Services, all hospitals are required to submit their survey data to DSHS within 60 days of receipt of this packet of information. **Thus, the completion deadline for your ASH-ASCB survey is June 1, 2016. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY EXTENSIONS GRANTED.** Please read the instructions for completion of the online survey carefully. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in fines by the Office of the Attorney General. If you have questions, please contact Dwayne Collins by phone at (512) 776-7261 or E-mail at dwayne.collins@dshs.state.tx.us.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Burns
Interim Director - Center for Health Statistics
Department of State Health Services