

 **STATE OF NEW YORK**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

433 River Street, Suite 303

Troy, New York 12180-2299

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

April 16, 2007

Dear Hospital Administrator:

In November 2006, the New York State Department of Health and the State Office for Aging, in conjunction with the statewide trade associations for Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Home Care and Adult Homes, as well as the Office of Children and Family Services and IPRO presented a Discharge Planning Conference to address concerns of discharge planners across all settings. The conference was a tremendous success and work has begun to determine the next educational programming. In order to make the sessions relevant to the needs of the different areas of the state we are disseminating a survey to all providers regarding the discharge of patients who are difficult to place.

To that end, NYSDOH has prepared a Discharge Planning Survey to collect information through the Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) and will contain questions about the reasons hospitals are having difficulty discharging patients. The data collected will facilitate the development of effective strategies for addressing hard to place patients.

We ask that those most knowledgeable as to the discharge issues complete the survey which we have limited to the top three reasons for delays in placement.

If you have any questions about how to access the application, need technical assistance or assistance in using the application please call the Health Emergency Preparedness program at 518-408-5163.

If you need clarification on the survey questions please call Anna Colello at (518) 402-5733.

Sincerely,

Martin Conroy
Director
Division of Primary & Acute Care Services