



Birth Module Changes: Deliveries prior to 39 Weeks

Beginning March 10, 2012, LEERS Birth Module will feature additional questions on the Medical Info tab. **These questions will only be visible for single-plurality births occurring prior to 39 weeks gestation.** For births occurring on or after the 39th week of pregnancy, or for any multiple birth, users will see no change to the Medical Info tab.

Why are these questions being added?

These additional questions are a part of Louisiana's 39-Week Initiative, introduced as a key component of DHH's Birth Outcomes Initiative, which was established to combat Louisiana's historically poor birth outcomes. The 39-Week Initiative is a voluntary program in which hospitals agree to establish policies to end the practice of elective, non-medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks gestation. Babies' organs, including the brain and lungs, continue to develop during the last few weeks of gestation. Babies who are born too soon have a greater chance of newborn health complications, such as breathing problems, and often must spend time in the NICU receiving costly specialized care. In addition to information about elective deliveries, these questions will allow for a real time statewide understanding of the causes of prematurity, some of which are modifiable.

What items are being added to LEERS?

For the births mentioned above, additional items will be seen on the Medical Info tab. These items allow the birth user to select from a number of medical conditions leading to spontaneous or medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks, or to select if there was no medical reason for the delivery prior to 39 weeks. See the 39-Week worksheet for specific items and information.

What is DHH doing with this information?

As of now, DHH is using the additional information gained from this change for monitoring purposes only. Health officials can use the data to understand the causes of prematurity and medically indicated deliveries prior to 39 weeks. In addition, monitoring will begin of deliveries occurring prior to 39 weeks that are not medically necessary.

If you have any questions about this change, or for more information, please contact the LEERS Helpdesk at (504) 593-5101 or leers@la.gov.