



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

April 18, 2012

**SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK DESIGNED TO PREVENT
NEEDLESS INJURIES AND DEATHS
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND TRAUMA CENTER PROVIDES
EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE TO COMBAT CHILD ABUSE**

SAN FRANCISCO – The California State Legislature has designated April 15 to 21 as Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week, in a resolution authored by Assemblywoman **Fiona Ma** (D-San Francisco and San Mateo counties).

The week, which was developed with help from pediatricians at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH), is part of Child Abuse Awareness Month (April). It is designed to promote education and resources to help reduce injuries and death caused by Shaken Baby Syndrome, which currently afflicts approximately 150 babies per year in California, and likely much higher due to under-reporting.

“Shaken Baby Syndrome is a tragedy that destroys families. But the good news is, it’s 100 percent preventable,” said **Shannon Thyne**, MD, SFGH Chief of Staff and a pediatrician who also is chair of the board of the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center (SFCAPC).

SFGH is the sole provider of diagnosis and treatment for children in San Francisco who have been physically or sexually abused, treating more than 400 such patients per year. SFGH pediatrician **Christopher Stewart**, MD, is a board certified child abuse expert who consults on shaken baby cases for San Francisco County hospitals and agencies. He co-directed the San Francisco Shaken Baby Prevention Project, a program that trained nurses at all San Francisco hospitals that deliver babies to educate and support parents to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome. They equip parents with tools to deal with the stress of a crying infant and provide resources and options when frustration arises.

The project linked with SFCAPC’s Talk Line, and produced educational brochures in English, Spanish and Chinese.

“The most important tool to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome is education and support of parents and caretakers,” Stewart said. “Prevention is the key strategy to combat child abuse.”

San Francisco General Hospital has the expertise and experience to make a difference. The hospital cares for more children than any other hospital in San Francisco, treating more than 34,000 children per year for inpatient and outpatient services. SFGH is:

- The only trauma center for children in San Francisco and northern San Mateo Counties, providing pediatric emergency, urgent care and mental health care 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- The largest provider of pediatric primary care in San Francisco, with nearly 12,000 clinic patients
- The provider of 1,200 newborn deliveries annually and operator of a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- The sole provider of care to all of San Francisco's foster children
- Home to innovative pediatric programs such as the Wraparound Program for youth affected by violence, the Medical-Legal Partnership to help families address environmental and social factors that impact health, the Healthy Lifestyles Clinic, for children battling obesity, and the Asthma Clinic that promotes cutting-edge approaches to this chronic illness.
- The only Baby-Friendly hospital in San Francisco, designated by the World Health Organization because of its attention to breastfeeding education and high rates of breastfeeding among moms who give birth at SFGH

San Francisco Shaken Baby Prevention Project

Co-directors Christopher C. Stewart, MD, San Francisco General Hospital Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UCSF and Carol Schulte, LCSW, MBA, Perinatal Services Coordinator San Francisco Department of Public Health.

http://coe.ucsf.edu/coe/shake_baby.html

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH)

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center is the sole provider of trauma and psychiatric emergency services for the City and County of San Francisco. A comprehensive medical center, SFGH serves some 100,000 patients per year and provides 20 percent of the city's inpatient care. In 2011, SFGH became the first hospital in the country to be certified for a Traumatic Brain Injury program. As San Francisco's public hospital, SFGH's mission is to provide quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect to patients that include the city's most vulnerable. General Hospital is also one of the nation's top tertiary academic medical centers, partnering with the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine on clinical training and research.