



January 6, 2015

Merry Holliday-Hanson, Ph.D., Manager
Administrative Data Program
Office of the Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson,

Thank you for allowing us to review and respond to Kaweah Delta Medical Center's (KDMC) 2013 OSHPD Inpatient Mortality Indicators. Patient safety is our number one priority; we strive to always provide high-quality care to those we serve. KDMC is committed to working collaboratively with our medical staff in continuous quality improvement efforts. As a result, we have seen improvement in many quality indicators. This is evidenced by the most recent report which identifies that mortality rates are as expected for all of the measured categories.

These results can be attributed to many quality improvement initiatives within KDMC. In this report, our greatest achievement was a 50 percent reduction from 2012 to 2013 in Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) mortality (from 10.1% to 5.1%). We currently review all mortalities in search of opportunities to improve processes of care and our expansive analysis looks for methods to better identify and manage high-risk medical and surgical patients. KDMC has also committed extensive resources to care for our patients. Proper placement of the highest risk patients in the critical care units are facilitated by our in-house intensivist program; a 24-hour-a-day program. Complementing this, KDHC provides medical and surgical hospitalist programs as well. Additionally, our organization supports a robust rapid response program with critical care nursing, respiratory, and pharmacy personnel.

KDMC is committed to ensuring that the best practice is provided to every patient, every time. To better our current performance, KDMC is developing a comprehensive stroke program to become a Primary Certified Stroke Center. Lastly, KDMC now participates in The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, a surgical database that allows for detailed analysis of complications and outcomes associated with most surgical conditions. With these and other performance improvement activities, KDMC will continue to strive and improve quality of care and patient safety; therefore, medical and surgical outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lindsay K Mann'.

Lindsay Mann, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer