



January 9, 2015

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

Ms. Holliday-Hanson:

As a Joint Commission accredited Stroke Center, we thank you for the opportunity to respond to the stroke data reported in the Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California 2013. While we appreciate OSHPD's efforts to provide outcome based data collection, we have concerns on how this information will be presented to the public.

After reviewing the data, we identified that the OSHPD Technical Notes for Producing AHRQ Inpatient Mortality Indicators 2013 Data leaves no consideration for patients who have requested "do not resuscitate" or are terminal at the time of admission due to the severe nature of their neurological condition. In our review of the patients chosen for the report, we found that 3 out of the 5 cases who presented to our emergency room with terminal neurologic conditions were put on comfort care as requested by the family. Our facility transfers all treatable hemorrhagic stroke patients to another facility. We only keep patients who have no treatment options available.

We look forward to continued participation with AHRQ Mortality Reports along with stroke center benchmarks developed by The Joint Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cyndy Gordon", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Cyndy Gordon, RN, BSN, MSN
Chief Executive Officer