



December 15, 2008

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**SUBJECT: OSHPD Public Release of AHRQ Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators**

As consumers take more personal responsibility for evaluating the quality of care available at providers in their communities, OSHPD's publication of AHRQ inpatient mortality indicators is another piece in a complex puzzle. This letter serves to amplify the hospital's results posted on OSHPD's website.

Good Samaritan's performance on the selected indicators shows the hospital is continuously improving and delivering results on a par with academic and tertiary centers as well as other community hospitals.

When dealing with statistics, there is always the opportunity to debate methodology used to derive the statistics as well as how consumers can judge how useful the data may be. However, our focus at Good Sam remains improving patient outcomes.

Good Samaritan Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center; indeed, the hospital was one of the first five Primary Stroke Centers designated in the nation. The hospital is the only Northern California hospital to earn the Outstanding Achievement Award for 2007 from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, which has accredited our comprehensive cancer program. Recently, Good Samaritan became the first hospital in San Jose to earn accreditation as a Chest Pain Center.

These accreditations are achievements in themselves. More importantly, undergoing the accreditation process is an indication of the hospital's willingness to open our processes to objective third party review. As part of our continuous evaluation and performance improvement processes, these in-depth surveys increase our opportunity to improve outcomes for patients. The accreditation process dives deep into the hospital's use of evidence-based medicine and best demonstrated practices.

Consumers who access OSHPD's website are taking an important step in informing themselves about their healthcare choices. We encourage consumers to utilize this website and other objective sources of widely-accepted benchmarked data as part of their decision-making process. Use the information as part of your conversation with your physician about where you will receive your hospital-based services.

Sincerely,

William K. Piché  
Chief Executive Officer

Paul Beaupré, M.D.  
Chief Operating Office/Chief Medical Officer