

February 28, 2013



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

Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson:

In response to the OSHPD release of “Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California, 2010 and 2011,” Scripps welcomes the opportunity to provide information to patients and our community with regard to the quality of heart failure care delivered by Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, and our vigilance in maintaining that quality.

Through our continuing process of clinical quality review of all major complications or death, we recognized that the majority of these 2011 inpatient deaths attributed to heart failure occurred in patients with multiple related end-stage disease processes. Though supported by maximum appropriate medical therapies, many of these patients or families had chosen palliative or comfort care prior to death in recognition of the end-stage disease status. We continue to develop our Scripps Palliative Care network to offer patients and families support in this phase of life.

We would like to note that our focus on quality of care for heart failure patients has demonstrated a decrease in our AHRQ national inpatient mortality rates between 2011 and 2012.

Heart failure is a disease made up of complex clinical conditions, progressive in nature. At Scripps, we employ a multidisciplinary approach to managing and supporting heart failure patients throughout the continuum of care. Scripps has implemented several innovative programs to ensure that patients receive the benefit of appropriate and timely diagnosis, evidence-based therapies, and cutting edge technologies such as Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVAD) throughout the disease process.

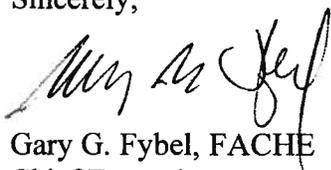
In partnership with our integrated primary care network, we are developing evidence-based algorithms to identify patients who are at risk for or in the early stages of heart failure, and treat appropriately to stop or slow progression of the disease. Our patient navigation programs ensure patients are supported through the transition from

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hospitalization to health maintenance at home. And Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla is proud to have achieved certification as a Joint Commission Advanced Disease Center for LVAD therapy in November 2012.

Heart failure management is a primary focus of the Scripps Cardiovascular Care Line due to the increasing prevalence and significant impact on the health of our aging population. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla is proud to contribute to the excellence demonstrated by Scripps Health as the largest provider of cardiovascular care in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary G. Fybel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F".

Gary G. Fybel, FACHE
Chief Executive

GF/egm

cc: Tamara Winkler, Sr. Director, Performance Outcomes & Risk

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Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson:

In response to the OSHPD release of “Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California, 2010 and 2011,” Scripps welcomes the opportunity to provide information to patients and our community with regard to the quality of stroke care delivered by Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, and our vigilance in maintaining that quality.

Through our continuing process of clinical quality review of all major complications and death, we recognized that the majority of these 2010 inpatient death attributed to stroke occurred in acutely ill patients in which death was imminent. We continue to develop our Scripps palliative care network to offer patients and families support in this very difficult time.

We would like to note that our focus on quality of care for stroke patients has demonstrated a decrease in the OSHPD reported inpatient mortality rates from 13.7% in 2010 to 10.2% in 2011.

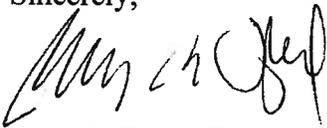
Over the past several years, a rapid evolution of stroke care has occurred across the nation, and the number of treatment modalities available has drastically increased. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla is proud to be on the front lines with the latest innovations in care. In late 2009, we implemented the Scripps Neurointerventional Program, which offers the most progressive treatments to the sickest of stroke patients.

In January 2013, Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla became one of only 16 hospitals in the United States certified by the Joint Commission as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. This designation requires a very detailed and thorough review of mortality data, procedural complication rates, and the overall care provided to our stroke patients. It is only awarded to those facilities that exceed the highest levels of quality.

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Stroke is a complex disease and the number one leading cause of disability in the United States. Management of stroke care is a primary focus of the Scripps Neurosciences Care Line due to the increasing prevalence and significant impact on health in our aging population. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla is proud to provide the highest quality of care for our stroke patients and to continue contributions to the growing field of neurosciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary G. Fybel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary G. Fybel, FACHE
Chief Executive

GF/egm

cc: Tamara Winkler, Sr. Director, Performance Outcomes & Risk