

**Scripps Mercy Hospital**  
4077 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, MER1  
San Diego, CA 92103-2180  
Tel 619 260-7101  
Fax 619 686-3530

**Thomas A. Gammiere, FACHE**  
Chief Executive



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 Ms. 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 craniotomys delivered by Scripps Mercy Hospital, and our vigilance in maintaining that quality.

Through our continued process of clinical quality review of all major complications and death, we recognized that these 2011 inpatient deaths attributed to craniotomy surgery occurring in patients who presented with intracranial hemorrhage, infection and trauma. In all of the cases, the patient's condition was critical and craniotomy was the last available option available to offer recovery of brain functioning and quality of life. In seeking to offer the most comprehensive care and support to patients and families during this difficult time we continue to develop our Palliative Care program.

**We would like to note that our focus on quality of care for our Craniotomy Surgical patients has demonstrated a decrease in the inpatient craniotomy mortality rates from 2011 to 2012.**

Scripps Mercy Hospital is proud to provide the highest quality of care for patients and to continue contributions to the growing field of neurosciences, as evidenced by our hospital designation as a Joint Commission Certified Primary Stroke Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Gammiere".

Tom Gammiere  
Chief Executive  
Scripps Mercy Hospital

cc: Eric Braun, Director of Quality & Performance Improvement