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November 18, 2014

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

RE: Response to OSHPD Public Release of AHRQ Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators, 2012

Dear Ms. Holliday-Hanson,

In response to the report on 2012 Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators, Delano Regional Medical Center (DRMC) progressively seeks opportunities to evaluate and improve the care given to our patients. This report shows DRMC scored lower than previous reports in two categories: acute stroke and pneumonia.

Two programs have been implemented that have resulted in positive outcomes for patient care in many areas including acute stroke and pneumonia:

- DRMC has partnered with a local hospital specializing in stroke and acute MIs, allowing us to identify and quickly enhance the care for the patient which can lower the risk of mortality.
- The hospital instituted a Primary Care Hospitalist Program, which provides increased patient care, heightens the relationship between clinical staff, hospitalist and patient as well as improves documentation. These factors not only affect mortality due to pneumonia but, also ensures accurate coding and documentation.

Thank you for allowing DRMC to provide feedback on our programs.

Sincerely,

Bahram Ghaffari  
President

cc: Amy Scroggs, RN, Chief Nursing Officer