



**ANTELOPE VALLEY
HOSPITAL**

A facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District

August 9, 2016

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

RE: Ischemic Stroke Report Comment Letter

Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson:

Antelope Valley Hospital is a safety net hospital serving a geographically isolated and underserved community in northern Los Angeles County. Compared to other areas in the county, our service area has higher rates of many of the conditions that contribute to stroke, such as hypertension, smoking and obesity. In addition, our facility sees a high number of patients suffering from stroke each year. Due to these factors, our facility has recognized improving the quality of care and outcomes for stroke patients as a priority at our facility. In 2014, our hospital identified multiple areas in stroke care with opportunities to improve performance. Based on our identified needs, in the second half of 2014, we undertook major initiatives in revising and updating the processes and methodology in the way we evaluate and treat patients with stroke. The changes have ensured that treatment given is consistent with current research, national guidelines, and best practices and, in turn, has improved the quality of care for our community.

In December 2014, Antelope Valley Hospital was recognized for our efforts by The Joint Commission by being certified as a Primary Stroke Center, and by Los Angeles County as being designated an Approved Stroke Center. These prestigious recognitions were bestowed upon us by demonstrating our facility's ability and commitment to provide evidence-based quality care to patients with stroke and to improve patient outcomes for our community.

Antelope Valley Hospital is saddened to see our performance as listed in this OSHPD report but we recognize the time frame for these ischemic stroke measures are for patients in the 2013 through 2014 calendar years. This does not reflect our facility's recent performance improvement initiatives. Our Stroke Program's current internal

data has shown improvements in key outcomes such as mortality and readmissions. We anticipate the OSHPD ischemic stroke measures will also reflect this improvement in performance when future reports begin to include data since our facility was recognized as a Primary Stroke Center. At Antelope Valley Hospital, we will continue to dedicate our efforts to providing high quality care for patients with stroke and will strive to obtain the best performance and outcomes possible for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rossfeld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

John Rossfeld
Chief Executive Officer