



December 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

Dear Ms. Holliday-Hanson,

This letter is in response to our receipt of the 2011-2012 release of "Ischemic Stroke: Hospital Outcomes in California. Sharp Grossmont Hospital (SGH) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback regarding our scores.

In response to the Hospital Risk Adjusted Stroke Readmission rate of 17.52 (138:798) for 2011-2012:

SGH has the largest stroke volume in San Diego County. The hospital is located in San Diego's East County, which services a significant elderly population having 50% of all skilled nursing facilities in San Diego County. An analysis of the readmission cases demonstrates that 38% (53/138) of patients readmitted were 80 years of age or older. Upon a careful review of all cases, no quality of care issues or trends were identified.

Findings:

Hospital Discharge Disposition:

- 2 patients were discharged to Hospice on index stay
- 81/138- (59%) patients had discharge disposition indicative of higher level of care needs
 - 43 patients DC to skilled nursing facility
 - 17 patients DC to acute physical rehabilitation unit
 - 18 patients DC with Home Health services
 - 1 patient DC to Board and Care
 - 2 patients DC to psychiatric unit

Reasons for readmissions:

- 19/134- (14%)- were readmitted for elective procedures
- 24 patients were readmitted with recurrent or extended strokes (24/798=3%).
In a systematic review and meta-analysis of risk of recurrent stroke, Mohan et al. (2011) reported a 3.1% risk of recurrent stroke at 30 days.

Review of compliance with stroke prevention measures:

- Compliance with antithrombotics at DC for stroke prevention for all stroke/ TIA population 99.7% for 2011 and 99.2% for 2012
- Compliance with anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation at DC for stroke prevention for all stroke/ TIA population 98.9% for 2011 and 95.2% for 2012
- Compliance with statin at DC for stroke prevention for all stroke/ TIA population 96.7% for 2011 and 97.3% for 2012
- Compliance with stroke education was 98% in 2011 and 2012

ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE READMISSIONS

- October 2013, Sharp Grossmont Hospital implemented Stroke Rounds on the Stroke Unit to improve readiness for discharge and incorporated a review of comorbidities and triggers for intervention into rounding process.
- Stroke Educational videos were added to our Get Well TV program for patients to augment patient education in 2013.
- Discharge stroke education materials were translated into Spanish and Arabic for our top two populations in East County.
- In January 2014, we implemented a Care Partner program designed to involve loved ones in patient care during hospitalization.
- We utilize Transitions of Care Program to improve compliance with treatment regimens.

Thank you for allowing us to provide feedback on our programs,

Maryann Cone



Chief Operating Officer

Sharp Grossmont Hospital