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CCORP Bulletin 05-02

To: All CCORP Hospitals

Subject: CAP Decisions from the September 8, 2005 Meeting

This bulletin is to inform you of some important recommendations and decisions made by the Clinical Advisory Panel (CAP) at its September 8, 2005 meeting.

Approval of the 2003 Risk Model for Operative Mortality

The CAP gave final approval for the operative mortality risk model for the 2003 CCORP Hospital Public Report. The 2003 CCORP Hospital Public Report is scheduled for completion by December 2005. Required internal review and approval by our agency (Health and Human Services) could possibly delay release.

Public Reporting on Left Internal Mammary Artery (LIMA) Usage Rates

The CAP reviewed an analysis of LIMA usage in isolated CABG surgeries for the 2003 CCORP data year. Emergent and salvage cases, patients with prior CABG surgery and cases where right IMA or both IMAs were used were excluded from the analysis. On average, 90% of such California patients received this graft when undergoing isolated CABG surgery. However, investigators found that 12 California hospitals (10%) used the LIMA on less than 75% of their patients in 2003. This low level of LIMA utilization could not be explained by any measured patient characteristics. The surgeons and cardiologists on the CAP felt that such low usage could not be justified clinically, based on a wealth of peer-review literature relating appropriate LIMA use with improved long-term graft patency and survival. The use of the IMA is also a widely reported process measure used by several national quality assessment organizations. **The CAP recommended that LIMA use be reported as a quality measure in the 2006 CCORP public report.**

Audit of the 2004 CCORP Data

The CAP approved the patient medical chart audit plan for the 2004 data year. To enhance data quality and validation efforts, the audit sample will be increased to forty hospitals, or one out of three hospitals. CCORP has selected R & G Associates, the auditor for the 2003 data, to perform medical chart abstraction. The audit is expected to begin in late January 2006.

Please call (916) 322-9137 or email Hchan@oshpd.state.ca.us with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



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