Performance Improvement
Scripps Memorial Hospital - La Jolla
9888 Genesee Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037-1276

December 1, 2015

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

RE: OSHPD Public Release of AHRQ Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators 2014

Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson:

In response to the OSHPD public release of the 2014 AHRQ Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators for California, Scripps Memorial Hospital la Jolla welcomes the opportunity to provide information to patients and our community with regard to the quality of hip fracture care delivered and the vigilance in maintaining that quality at our facility.

Through the continuing process of clinical quality review of all major complications or death, we recognized that all of these 2014 inpatient hip fracture deaths occurred in elderly patients, over the age of 80 with one or more co-morbidities, who were admitted to our facility after a very serious traumatic fall. Although supported by maximum appropriate surgical and medical therapies, many of these patients or their families had chosen palliative or comfort care prior to their deaths, which was honored by our facility.

We would like to recognize that our focus on quality of care for hip fracture patients has demonstrated a decrease in our AHRQ Inpatient Hip Fracture Mortality Rates year to date in 2015. Compared to a rate of 5.5% in 2014, our 2015 year to date rate is 2.5%.

As the elderly population in the United States grows, the number of hip fractures continues to increase. Hip fractures represent one of the most significant causes of morbidity and mortality in the elderly. Due to the increasing prevalence and significant impact on the health and well-being of our aging population, management of hip fractures is a focus of our Scripps Orthopaedic Care Line.

Sincerely,

Gary G. Fybel, FACHE
Chief Executive

GF/jjg

cc: Tamara Winkler, Senior Director of Quality
cc: Dr. Richard Brown, Chair, Orthopaedic Surgery
cc: Matt Cantonis, Director, Orthopaedic Care Line

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