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Joseph Parker, Ph.D.
Director
Healthcare Outcomes Center
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Room 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Parker:

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Orange County, California, recently received the OSHPD California Hospital Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates and Quality Ratings for AHRQ Inpatient Mortality Indicators, 2007. The results for Pancreatic Resection at Hoag Hospital indicate a % Mortality of 58.2 for a total of 3 patients undergoing this procedure in 2007.

According to the OSHPD Confidential Patient Data file for 2007, one of these three patients died, which would be 33.3% mortality. We cannot verify the mortality rate of 58.2% as we do not have access to the AHRQ software. The patient who died for APR/DRG 260 was Risk Mortality 2, Severity 3, and Age Category 4.

The Inpatient Quality Indicators Guide, Version 3.1, March 12, 2007 states: "Pancreatic resection is a relatively uncommon complex cancer surgery. The relative rarity of this procedure results in an indicator that is less precise than most volume indicators. With most facilities performing 10 or fewer pancreatectomies for cancer during a 5 year period, this indicator is expected to have poor precision."

With poor precision in lower volumes in mind, we would like to include several consecutive years of data and average the volumes for a more precise estimate. According to our records over a five-year period, 18 surgeries were performed with only one mortality:

Year	Total # patients undergoing pancreatic resection	# Patients who died
2007	3	1
2006	4	0
2005	6	0
2004	4	0
2003	1	0
Past 5 yrs	18	1

We would like to submit this comment letter to be included with our hospital's results.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Afable, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer