



Oak Valley Hospital District
A Division of Oak Valley Hospital District
An Affiliate of Catholic Healthcare West

January 15, 2009

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

RE: Hospital Inpatient Mortality Indicators, 2007

Dear Mr. Parker,

Oak Valley Hospital District (OVHD) is a 35 acute-bed rural facility located in the San Joaquin Valley. Oak Valley Hospital District is committed to ongoing clinical quality improvement for all patients.

We support the analytic approach undertaken by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development with this project. The AHRQ Inpatient Mortality Indicators Project provides a unique opportunity to evaluate our performance in relationship to hospitals across the state.

OVHD utilizes continuous quality improvement methodologies to address care and treatment of our patients. Data is assessed on a continual basis and strategies are implemented and modified continuously to improve processes and outcomes. Overall, OVHD realized a risk-adjusted observed death rate no different than the state average for acute stroke, gastrointestinal hemorrhage and hip fracture. OVHD had no patients in the other categories included in the study. Favorable outcomes were achieved through continuous improvement activities initiated to decrease the death rate and optimize patient outcomes.

Our participation in the California Hospital Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates and Quality Ratings for AHRQ Inpatient Mortality Indicators, 2007 demonstrates our commitment to the residents of our community to provide optimum care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Friel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Friel
Chief Executive Officer