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Comment letter in response to the Hospital inpatient Mortality Indicators (IMIs) for California 2009.

Upon review of the 23 patient charts included in the IMI for pneumonia, 16 were admitted to the hospital with an active Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order in place and the remaining 7 had their code status changed to DNR after their admission. Reviewing co-morbidities; 43% suffered from Alzheimer's or Dementia, 21% had underlying chronic obstructive lung disease, 21% had underlying kidney failure, 17% had congestive heart failure and 16% had cancer. Of the remaining patients, there were multiple co-morbidities including emphysema, diabetes, liver cirrhosis, valley fever, stroke, tuberculosis and myocardial infarction.

Per our in depth review of these patient charts, there were multiple contributing factors to their inpatient mortality in addition to their pneumonia diagnosis.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this data.

Sincerely,

Bahram Ghaffari
Executive Director