

Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Walnut Creek
1425 South Main Street
Walnut Creek, California 94596

December 17, 2010

Merry Holliday-Hanson, PhD, Manager
Administrative Data Program
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Room 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Holliday-Hanson,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the Inpatient Hospital Mortality Data for 2008 and 2009 soon to be publicly released by your department. Kaiser Permanente supports the sharing of health care performance data and participates in many voluntary and required initiatives sponsored by regulatory, accreditation and professional agencies. We believe public reporting of clinical quality data not only helps consumers make informed choices but improves the quality of care for everyone.

Kaiser Foundation Hospital (KFH) Walnut Creek is proud to be at or below the State risk adjusted mortality rate for the following categories: Stroke, AMI, CHF, Hip Fracture and GI Bleed. The hospital has been Stroke-certified by The Joint Commission for four years. In 2010, the American Heart Association recognized us with the Gold Plus Award for Stroke Care. For both Heart Failure and AMI, KFH Walnut Creek performs above the 90th percentile in the nation for the care we provide to our patients.

In 2008 and 2009, KFH Walnut Creek performed only emergent Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) for ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction patients. The risk of mortality in this select population is recognized as higher than in facilities performing both elective and emergent PTCA. The risk adjusted model used in the OSHPD report does not take into account care for this select patient population. In August 2010, KFH Walnut Creek was selected by the State to participate in a three year study of elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI). Regarding esophageal resections, the risk adjusted model does not take into account small numbers of cases performed and how this can adversely skew the data.

Sincerely yours.



Ginger Campbell, RN PhD
Senior Vice President and Area Manager
and Interim Chief Operating Officer



Abdul Wali, MD
Chief of Staff