City of Hope

N A T I O N A L M E D I C A L C E N T E R

October 8, 1997

David Werdegar, MD, MPH, Director
Health Policy and Planning Division
OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
1600 Ninth Street, Room 350
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Dr. Werdegar,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the "California Hospital Outcomes Reports" dated August 20, 1997. The report showed that in 1992 City of Hope had seven (7) cases listed with acute myocardial infarction admissions. Of the seven (7) cases, there was one (1) death. The one (1) death showed a risk adjusted death rate of 17.8% which is above the statewide norm of 14.6%.

The City of Hope National Medical Center is a tertiary hospital with the designation of "Clinical Cancer Center" by the National Cancer Institute. Patients admitted to this facility are often compromised due to the nature of their disease and the complex treatment they receive.

In the City of Hope data set there is one (1) mortality. The following is a summary of that case:

A 67 year old caucasian female with multiple complex diagnoses:

- Debulking surgery for her stage III ovarian adenocarcinoma followed by chemotherapy treatment (1984)
- Mastectomy surgery for her breast cancer followed by radiation treatment (1988)
- Diabetes Mellitus with organ damage - (Insulin dependent)
- Atherosclerotic Heart Disease - History of CAD with previous acute MI.

There were inherent risks associated with the complexity and severity of this patients diagnosis.

Again, I must emphasize that City of Hope is a cancer center and while the institution is equipped to treat myocardial infarction, this is not a frequent admitting diagnosis and therefore the low numbers i.e. seven (7) admissions with this diagnosis, one (1) mortality with this diagnosis. City of Hope had a total of 4,231 admissions in 1992 therefore, the mortality rate for myocardial infarction is .023%.

If you have any questions, please call me at (626) 359-8111 extension 3457.

Sincerely ,

Donna Sollenberger

Donna Sollenberger
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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A National Cancer Institute Designated Clinical Cancer Research Center