Western Medical Center Hospital Anaheim

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Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Health Policy and Planning Division
1600 9th Street, Room 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Western Medical Center Anaheim appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Annual Report of the California Hospital Outcomes Project published by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). We support the State's effort to better inform the public regarding the quality of health care being delivered in California hospitals. Unfortunately, the usefulness of the 1991-1993 Acute Myocardial Infarction Study is limited since the data reported primarily uses ICD-9-CM codes, a coding and classification system which does not recognize the severity of the patients' illness, has vague and consistently changing guidelines and is not uniformly reported by California hospitals and health care facilities. The severity of illness indexing or risk adjusting utilized in this study is dependent on coding of pre-admission diagnosis. Additionally, the statistical data that has been published has a very low probability of being related to the quality of care that a patient would receive at a given hospital.

Western Medical Center Anaheim conducts extensive reviews of all mortalities and complications as a significant part of our Continuous Quality Improvement Program. The Medical Staff has taken opportunities to identify and improve patient outcomes. We believe our review processes provide continuous feedback that allows us to meet and exceed quality of care standards. Additionally, it should be mentioned that Western Medical Center Anaheim has a comprehensive Cardiovascular program in order to better serve cardiac patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the California Hospital Outcomes Project Report prior to publication. We are aware OSHPD continues in their effort to improve the methodology of reporting.

If you have questions feel free to contact me at (714) 953-3610.

Very Truly Yours,

Richard E. Butler
Chief Executive Officer

REB:mv

cc: Doug Norris, COO