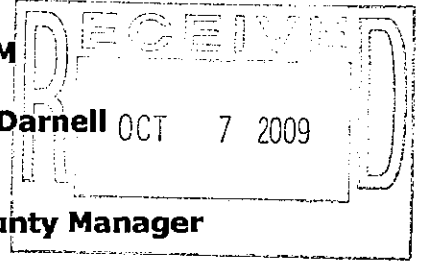




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Commissioner Emma I. Darnell  
District 5

**THROUGH:** *Zachary L. Williams*  
Zachary L. Williams, County Manager

**FROM:** Patrice Harris, MD, Director, Health Services

**DATE:** October 6, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Agency for Health Care Research and Quality Study ( Medicare): Evaluation of Georgia Hospitals

Per your request regarding Agency for Health Care Research and Quality Study (Medicare): Evaluation of Georgia Hospitals, the following information is provided.

I) GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

Hospital Compare was created through the efforts of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), along with the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA). The HQA is a public-private collaboration established to promote reporting on hospital quality of care. The HQA consists of organizations that represent consumers, hospitals, doctors and nurses, employers, accrediting organizations, and Federal agencies.

Hospital Compare displays information for **Process of Care** measures that shows whether or not hospitals provide some of the care that is recommended for patients being treated for a heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, asthma (children only) or for patients having surgery. Hospitals voluntarily submit data from medical records about the treatment their patients receive for these conditions. The data set includes patients with Medicare, those enrolled in Medicare health plans, and those who don't have Medicare.

Hospital **Outcome of Care** measures are also documented. The Hospital Outcome of Care Measures show what happened after patients with certain conditions received hospital care. The 30 day Risk Adjusted Death (Mortality) and Readmission Rates for patients with Medicare who were admitted to the hospital for heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia are included. The 30 day period is used because this is the time period when deaths are most likely to be related to the care patients received in the hospital. The hospital death rates and rates of readmission are based on people with Medicare who are 65 and older. The death rates are risk adjusted, meaning that the calculations take into account how sick patients were when they went in for their initial hospitalization.

The data comes from hospitals who volunteer to submit their data for public reporting.

II) PNEUMONIA DEATH RATES FOR GRADY AND OTHER METRO ATLANTA HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL	RATING COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE
Grady Memorial Hospital	Worse
Atlanta Medical Center	No Different
Emory University	No Different
Dekalb Medical	No Different
Piedmont	Better
Northside Hospital	No Different
South Fulton	No Different
Emory Eastside	Worse
Rockdale	Worse
St. Joseph's	No Different
Southern Regional	No Different
Wellstar Cobb	No Different

III) "BASIC PROTOCOLS" RATINGS FOR GRADY AND OTHER METRO HOSPITALS

PERCENTAGE OF PATIENTS GIVEN ANTIBIOTIC AT RIGHT TIME

HOSPITAL	PERCENTAGE
Grady	85%
Atlanta Medical Center	94%
Emory University	96%
Dekalb Medical	90%
Piedmont	93%
Northside Hospital	92%
South Fulton	90%
Emory Eastside	95%
Rockdale	94%
St. Joseph's	96%
Southern Regional	96%
Wellstar Cobb	95%

PERCENTAGE OF PATIENTS GIVEN ASPIRIN AFTER HEART ATTACK UPON ARRIVAL

HOSPITAL	
Grady	94%
Atlanta Medical Center	100%
Emory University	98%
Dekalb Medical	98%
Piedmont	99%
Northside Hospital	98%
South Fulton	97%
Emory Eastside	100%
Rockdale	96%
St. Joseph's	100%
Southern Regional	98%
Wellstar Cobb	97%

PERCENTAGE OF HEART FAILURE PATIENTS GIVEN DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

Grady	28%
Atlanta Medical Center	88%
Emory University	71%
Dekalb Medical	81%
Piedmont	73%
Northside Hospital	90%
South Fulton	79%
Emory Eastside	88%
Rockdale	93%
St. Joseph's	61%
Southern Regional	69%
Wellstar Cobb	56%

If you have any questions, please call me at 404 730 1202.

Cc Gwendolyn Warren, Deputy County Manager  
 Dr. Kim Turner, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services