



Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital
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January 31, 2017

Michael Lundberg, Executive Director
Virginia Health Information
102 N. 5th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Lundberg:

This letter is submitted in reference to the VHI "2015 Cardiac Care Mortality Report" for Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital.

The report was reviewed with particular emphasis on the "Greater than Expected" mortality significance for the percutaneous cardiovascular procedures for 2015.

I would like to make several comments regarding this report:

- 1- The patient in question had a very high severity index, with severe comorbidities and multiple organ disease.
- 2- The mortality was not directly related to the cardiovascular procedure and was the result of the patient's pre-existing severe underlying cerebrovascular disease.
- 3- Statistically speaking, this "mortality significance" is inconclusive because it is based solely on 1 death. With 1 death out of 36 cases, the "margin of error" is so wide, as to make the result very difficult to interpret.
- 4- As a disclaimer, statistical conclusions are always difficult to reach when dealing with very small numbers.

Quality of care represents a high priority for our institution. Our team vigilantly reviews every single complication and/or mortality in an effort to improve the delivery of care to our patients and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the VHI "2015 Cardiac Care Mortality Report" for Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Habib Bassil".

Habib Bassil, MD
Cardiology Medical Director