



Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital  
2204 Wilborn Avenue  
South Boston, VA 24592

434.517.3100

Michael Lundberg, Executive Director  
Virginia Health Information  
102 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
February 6, 2018

Dear Mr. Lundberg:

This letter is submitted in reference to the VHI "2016 Cardiac Care Mortality Report" for Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital. The report was reviewed with particular emphasis on the "greater than expected" mortality in the cardiac care medical group. All 13 mortality cases were reviewed.

- 1- Most of these mortality cases had a very high severity index, with multiple comorbidities and severe multi-organ disease. Risk adjustment models typically do not perform as well with patients at extreme thresholds.
- 2- Some of the key findings from this review include:
  - 4 patients were over 90 years old and 7 patients over 80 years old.
  - 7 patients had a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) status at the time of expiration.
  - 4 patients had acute myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock.
  - 3 patients were receiving "End of Life Care" and were being enrolled in Hospice.
  - 2 patients had advanced cancer with local and distal metastases.
  - 2 patients had an "Out of Hospital" cardio-respiratory arrest with ACLS in progress.
  - 2 patients had end stage renal disease with severe metabolic acidosis.

We remain very committed to delivering high quality care to all our patients. Our team regularly reviews every mortality case in an effort to continually improve the delivery of care to our patients and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the "2016 Cardiac Care Mortality Report" for Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Habib Bassil'.

Habib Bassil, MD  
Medical Director of Cardiovascular Services