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

Dear Mr. Lundberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2014 Cardiac Care Mortality Report for Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center.

The mortality significance for cardiac catheterization procedures was reflected as “Greater than Expected” for discharges occurring during 2014. Three out of 99 cases are counted by VHI as cardiac catheterization mortalities.

A review of the three mortalities showed that all three patients arrived via ambulance to the emergency department very sick with a high risk of mortality. Two of the mortalities occurred in patients who arrested prior to arrival to the hospital while the other one occurred in an unstable patient who was in the intensive care unit and was brought to the cath lab in an attempt to stabilize patient with use of a balloon pump. Patient returned to ICU, continued to deteriorate and subsequently died.

The conclusion in these cases was that none of the mortalities were in any way related to the procedure performed in the cath lab. We are proud that our physicians acted with the best interest of the patients in mind by bringing them to the cath lab to provide every opportunity to institute life-saving measures on their behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kayrouz', written over a circular scribble.

Tom Kayrouz, MD, FAAP, CPE
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