

YORK HOSPITAL DISPUTES HAC RATING FOR FALLS

APRIL, 2011: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have recently published data on "Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs)" via its consumer website HospitalCompare.hhs.gov. Raw data for hospitals across the nation is available tracking rates for the eight HACs listed below.

York Hospital prides itself on providing excellent patient care, which is exemplified in the stellar quality ratings we receive. With respect to these eight measures, York Hospital continues to excel, however, there is a glaring discrepancy on the report that we felt necessary to share with you.

YORK HOSPITAL'S RATINGS ON HAC REPORT

<u>HOSPITAL-AQUIRED CONDITION</u>	<u>YH RATE</u>	<u>NATIONAL BENCHMARK</u>
1. Blood infections from a catheter placed in the hospital	0.00	<0.367
2. Urinary Tract infections from a catheter placed in the hospital	0.00	<0.316
3. Falls, burns, electric shock, broken bones and other injuries during a hospital stay	4.31*	<0.564
4. Blood transfusions with incompatible blood	0.00	<0.001
5. Pressure ulcers that develop after a patient enters the hospital	0.00	<0.135
6. Injuries and complications from air or gas bubbles entering a blood vessel	0.00	<0.003
7. Objects left in patients after surgery	1.27	<0.09
8. Poor Control of Blood Sugar for Patients with diabetes	0.00	<0.05

***FALLS DURING A HOSPITAL STAY:** We feel it is imperative that we alert the public about a glaring error we have encountered in the HAC data that is reflecting poorly on our organization. With respect to the HAC indicator for "Falls and Trauma" (an indicator for the number of Patients who fell and/or were injured while at the hospital), the report is indicating that York Hospital had 15 instances during the timeframe 10/2008-6/2010. This equates to a rate of 4.305, placing York Hospital way beyond the national benchmark of <0.564 and among the top 5% of hospitals across the nation with the worst rating. **This information is absolutely untrue.** We investigated all of our data and concluded there were zero hospital acquired falls. We did, however, discover a simple computer processing error where some claim data that was sent to CMS back in 2008-09 contained incomplete information, causing the data used in the HAC report to be incorrect. We have contacted CMS through the appropriate channels to have the information fixed as we have all of the data to back up our claim.

We have been told we are simply too late to fix it and the data will stand, even if it is incorrect. We object to the decision to not allow us to change the data to accurately reflect our exemplary fall rate of 0.00. We want the public to know we do provide a safe environment for patients and their families and our providers offer stellar care.

If you have any questions about this report or the data included in it, we would be happy to discuss. Please feel free to contact us at any time at (207) 351-2086 or dfernald@yorkhospital.com.

