

Anthony Way, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Consultant
State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

Dear Dr. Way,

This is in response to your letter from [date] regarding [case number] patient admitted for an acute [type of] myocardial infarction on [date]. The patient had an unsuccessful primary PCI. Please see attached procedure report. The initial plan after the failed PCI was CABG, after discussion with the family, in view of the patient's co morbidities and not being a good candidate, it was decided that medical treatment would be the best option. The patient was made a "Do Not Resuscitate" per family's request. The patient expired on [date] with a diagnosis of:

1. [type of] myocardial infarction
2. [Other disease]
3. [Other disease]
4. [Other disease]

I have reviewed with the coders this case, initially on the post-diagnostic cath recommendation [field number] we had inadvertently coded as "CABG (Including planned hybrid CABG /PCI procedures). After recommendations from UC Davis auditors, we had amended the field to "PCI without planned CABG". At no time was this case not reported as a "failed PCI". In the last AOC meeting, during the presentation of the case, there was an impression that it was not reported as a failed PCI, which was certainly not true, leading to a somewhat irrelevant discussion about this case.

We would like to request, if possible, those facilities whose cases are being presented at AOC be notified ahead of time, so that any clarifications with regards to the case may be obtained if necessary.

We understand that there is a learning process for the coders at the different facilities and that amendments made based on the queries are not uncommon. Actually, this process facilitates collection of more accurate and reliable data for this pilot project. We appreciate the UC Davis auditors' efforts towards this endeavor.

Sincerely,

[Director of Cardiac Laboratory]

cc: William J. Bommer, MD, FACP, FACC
Principal Investigator PCI/AOC
UC Davis