



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20516-6143

Dear Chairman Waxman:

Thank you for your interest in health care-associated infections (HAIs) and inviting the California Hospital Association (CHA) to clarify our response to your letter dated May 6, 2008. We appreciate the efforts of you and your committee to fully understand the work being performed in the nation's hospitals.

California has two patient-safety collaboratives working on HAIs and central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI). The two collaboratives cover just over half of California's hospitals. The Beacon Collaborative has been collecting data for more than 24 months on CLABSI, and has a median of zero and an overall rate of 0.9 percent per 1,000 line days. The Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative, which began its work in fall 2007, is also collecting this data, but will not have the results until late summer 2008. *Using the definitions provided by your staff, California hospitals should be classified as "Data Collection Has Begun" for both the median CLABSI and average rate for CLABSI.*

CHA has developed the California Hospital Patient Safety Organization (CHPSO), authorized under the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-41), signed into law July 29, 2005. CHPSO has identified HAIs, and CLABSI in particular, as priority issues. CHPSO, along with the Regional Associations, will develop additional collaboratives to replicate the work of the existing collaboratives, including HAI initiatives. Existing collaboratives use evidence-based process measures similar to those recommended by Dr. Pronovost and future collaboratives will use these measures as well. *Using the definitions provided by your staff, California should be classified as "yes" for the category plans for the MHA program.*

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the HAI work being performed in California hospitals. We welcome the opportunity to brief you and your staff on this work. We would also like to invite you or your staff to attend the Beacon Collaborative or Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative conferences to learn more about the education being conducted and commitment to reducing HAIs. We would also be happy to meet with you to more fully

explain the important efforts California's hospitals are making to minimize infections and maximize quality care for our patients.

Please contact me at (916) 552-7547 or cdduaner@calhospital.org, or Anne O'Rourke in our Washington, D.C., office at (202) 448-4494 or aorourke@calhospital.org, if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Duane Dauner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

C. Duane Dauner
President and CEO

CDD:bjb

cc: The Honorable Tom Davis