

From: Wisener, Maureen [mailto:Maureen.Wisener@ah.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Putnam, Julie (NBCUniversal)
Cc: Davis, Eden; Waterman, Rita
Subject: Feather River Hospital's Statement

Julie, please see the statement from Feather River Hospital regarding the adverse healthcare events concern you are addressing:

At Feather River Hospital, we maintain a very close relationship with our California Department of Public Health office, as we both are working together to ensure the highest quality care is provided to our patients. Because it is not always black and white as to whether something meets the definition for reporting, we make the report if there is any possibility that there might be a reportable adverse healthcare event. We have a very conscientious and conservative reporting philosophy. Many times, reports are made based upon documentation issues rather than actual adverse healthcare events.

In the section of adverse events, under surgical events, as noted by the Health and Safety Code 1279.1, this section includes any wrong surgical procedure or surgery performed on a wrong body part **“that is inconsistent with the documented informed consent”**.

For example, the definition of this reportable event includes cases where the documented informed consent that is signed by the patient doesn't match the description of the surgery performed. These are primarily consent documentation issues – the patient and surgeon agreed to the scheduled procedure, but the wording on the consent differs from the wording on the operative report, even though the correct surgery was performed. This is primarily the case with the reports we have made to the state. Also included would be unexpected findings that are discovered during surgery (and would not be known at the time of the informed consent) and appropriately managed during surgery.

While Feather River Hospital has reported a number of events over the years that we believed met the strictest definitions of the reporting law, quality of care issues were rarely identified. Reported events trigger on-site surveys by CDPH and any deficiencies found were rare, and related primarily to documentation and late reporting rather than with problems with care.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Maureen

Maureen M. Wisener

Assistant Vice President, Foundation & Communication

Feather River Health Foundation
Marketing & Communications
Strategic Planning
Volunteer and Retail Services