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Ying Yang, M.S.
Quality Indicators Group
Healthcare Analytics Branch
Department of Health Care Access and Information
2020 West El Camino Avenue,
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RE: HCAI Public Release of AHRQ Pediatric Quality Indicators for California Hospitals, 2022
Comment Letter

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on our results prior to public release. We, at Kaiser Permanente, are dedicated to providing evidence-based and patient-centric high-quality care to all our members.

In reviewing and comparing our 2022 Pediatric Quality Indicators to the state average and other hospitals, one indicator was noted to be below average.

The Neonatal BSI rate was below average due to an increase in blood contaminants in 2022. Despite this, only one confirmed Neonatal BSI occurred. Blood contaminants are microorganisms that are not part of the patient's blood but rather reside on the skin, in hair follicles, or in the dermal sebaceous glands. These contaminants are introduced into the blood sample during collection, resulting in false positive results. Our leadership team reviewed and implemented minor changes in our blood culture collection process with frontline staff. Since implementing these changes, the blood culture contamination rates have significantly decreased.

Thank you for allowing us to respond and share our quality improvement process to enhance the care we provide to our members.

Respectfully,

Payman Roshan
Sr. Vice President, Area Manager
Kaiser Permanente Orange County