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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
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Circular Letter: DHCQ 10-4-533

To: Chief Executive Officer
Massachusetts Primary Stroke Service Hospital

From: Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, Bureau Director

Subject: Public Release of Hospital-Specific Data on Primary Stroke Services

Date: April 8, 2010

The Department of Public Health (DPH) plans to publicly release hospital-specific performance data for each licensed Primary Stroke Service (PSS) in Massachusetts. The report will contain data on the percentage of eligible patients who received intravenous (IV) tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) treatment for ischemic stroke in a PSS designated Emergency Department between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008. Department staff collaborated with members of the DPH Hospital Stroke Care Advisory Committee to develop the report.

Enclosed is a copy of the data we plan to release for your hospital with aggregate peer group comparisons (see attachment). The data includes ischemic stroke patients who presented to the Emergency Department within two hours of the time the patient was last known to be well. We request that the data be reviewed by appropriate hospital staff such as the stroke coordinator or other clinical, quality management, and administrative staff to ensure that the information that has been submitted by the hospital to the registry is accurate and complete prior to public release. You are advised to notify the Department of any discrepancy as soon as possible but **no later than April 30, 2010**, so that the Department can review and make any necessary corrections before public release of the data.

The final report, scheduled to be posted in **May 2010**, will be accessible from a link, Primary Stroke Service Hospitals, on the DPH Division of Health Care Quality's website www.mass.gov/dph/dhcq.

Please contact Elizabeth Daake at 617-753-7016 or email elizabeth.daake@state.ma.us if you have any questions about this correspondence, or Phil Mello at 617-753-8182 or email phil.mello@state.ma.us if you have any questions about the content of the Primary Stroke Services Data Report.