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Dear Colleagues:

As some of you may know, the California Department of Public Health visited UC Irvine Medical Center in July to investigate a California Nurses Association complaint about the use of Curlin patient controlled analgesia (PCA) infusion pumps. The agency found no merit in C.N.A.'s complaint that the PCA pumps malfunctioned but requested the medical center strengthen its PCA pump training and oversight.

In addition, the survey resulted in a finding by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that UC Irvine is out of compliance with three Medicare Conditions of Participation related to the use of PCA pumps. The medical center has filed a plan of correction that addresses the CMS concerns. [Additional details are available here.](#)

The efforts of CMS and other regulatory agencies are important for quality assurance and we take their findings seriously. Though CMS found that no patients suffered irreparable injury, we must and will do better to keep those in our care safe.

UC Irvine Medical Center remains fully accredited by The Joint Commission, with disease-specific certification for stroke and heart failure. For the ninth consecutive year, UC Irvine ranks among the best hospitals (top 3 percent) in the country by U.S. News and World Report for its programs in gynecology and urology. It is a Leapfrog Top Hospital, one of only 33 nationally to be named for quality and safety. And the medical center also holds the Magnet Recognition for nursing excellence – all measures of quality, safety and clinical excellence.

These distinctions could not have been achieved without the commitment, dedication, and hard work of our staff. I thank you for your good work and support in our efforts to continually elevate the quality of our patient care.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Belmont  
CEO, UC Irvine Medical Center