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Washington Region

June 1, 2016

Eileen Fleck
Chief, Acute Care Policy & Planning
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Eileen:

This letter is written in response to your request for comment regarding the draft SHP chapter for organ transplantation. In general, I find the draft well-written and improved over the prior chapter. The comments and recommendations appear to be reflected in the new draft and it seems a reasonable document to inform ongoing policy regarding organ transplant services in the State of Maryland.

One area about which I would like to comment pertains to a section of the document that references the literature search undertaken to better understand the relationship between volume and outcome after transplantation. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Axelrod article from the American Journal of Transplantation (AJT) is a "classic" article published in a very high impact journal that has yet to be contradicted. The study makes clear the "strong relationship between higher volume ... and decreased morbidity and mortality following complex procedures ..." I would suggest that the draft be corrected to state that based on the most important articles cited, the literature fully-supports the relationship between higher volume centers and better outcomes.

Thank you for opportunity to comment on the SHP draft and again, for the opportunity to participate on this important Committee.

Sincerely,



Anne P. Weiland

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Focused on You