



Upland Hills Health comment regarding greater than expected mortality rate

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Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative and the Alliance are currently holding discussions and performing a statistical investigation concerning potential differences in care practices for end of life patients. These differences between rural hospitals and urban hospitals relate to availability of immediate alternative care settings, rural community family expectations, and differences in family practice vs. specialty medicine practice.

At Upland Hills Health, the 28 patients within our mortality grouping had an average age of over 83 years. 64% had conservative physician orders consistent with end of life measures within the first 48 hours of care. None of the 28 patients had an unanticipated mortality. All of the patients had chronic disease for many years.