



August 20, 2009

Michael T. Lundberg  
Executive Director  
Virginia Health Information  
102 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Michael:

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, as the member organization of the state's hospitals and health systems supports Virginia Health Information's (VHI) efforts to provide unbiased and accurate information on health care services in Virginia. The latest example of its effort is the recent *Obstetrical Services: A Consumer's Guide*. This comprehensive guide includes detailed information on Virginia hospitals and physicians providing care for mothers-to-be. The guide goes well beyond a typical health care *report card* by including information on the importance of prenatal care and active involvement of expecting mothers in making informed decisions in partnership with their physician. By providing the information via the web rather than hard copy, the ability of both the public and health care practitioners to access to this resource is enhanced.

Of special note is the attention VHI paid to helping ensure fair comparisons of cesarean rates among healthcare providers by taking into account differences in medical conditions of the mother and baby. The extra effort involved in contacting hospitals and physicians to ensure the information is accurate is also an important sign of VHI's commitment to responsible public reporting. We will continue to support such activities in the future by assisting the agency, as needed, to collect accurate information and full participation of Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

Congratulations on developing this excellent web resource that is easy for expecting parents and obstetric service providers to use and reference.

Sincerely,

Laurens Sartoris  
President