Corizon Health is committed to the health and safety of our patients. Statements regarding chronic broken equipment at the site are inaccurate and designed to cast our company's reputation in a false light at a time when our contract for services is up for rebid.

Equipment is checked daily and our expectation is that any concerns our doctors, nurses, mid-level practitioners or any other site personnel have with any aspect of their ability to provide care to our patients is promptly reported to the site's Health Services Administrator, Assistant Health Services Administrator, or Director of Nursing. Furthermore, every Corizon employee has access to a toll-free compliance line on which they may anonymously report any concern they have with any aspect of our operations, including equipment repair and availability. Calls to that line are documented and investigated by our compliance department. A review of the past two years of compliance line calls related to our Alameda County operations revealed no reported issues related to equipment maintenance.

Any allegation that faulty equipment was a factor in the death of Mario Martinez is likewise inaccurate and defamatory. There was a very slight delay in turning on the oxygen tank that was brought in response to Mr. Martinez's asthma attack because the key – or crank – for the tank was dropped in transit to the patient and had to be retrieved. However, this occurred while Mr. Martinez was breathing on his own and blood oxygen saturation levels were still in a safe range. At the point oxygen was needed, the tank was fully functional.

It is important to keep in mind that the Coroner did not find Mr. Martinez died from the lack of oxygen delivery. He died because he had mucous plugs in his lungs that blocked the oxygen from getting to the lung tissue, despite the efforts of deputies, Corizon nurses and paramedics to save him.

Our doctors have offered to meet with Mr. Martinez's family to explain in detail the medical event that occurred and the effort made to save Mr. Martinez but have been rebuffed.

Martha Harbin

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