Letter to the Editor:

Quality and Reporting

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As a guy who cares a lot about quality, I was blown away by your September 2005 Health Policy Newsletter article, and the info about total joints, as well as PHC4. In California, we have reporting on heart surgeons, and I have been telling all my surgeons that anybody who does major elective procedures is going to be scrutinized. There's just too much at stake. And I hear the whining that "all the sick people will not be served", and "anybody can have good results" by choosing the easiest patients. Yes, I would pick a guy with significant volume, and I would strongly consider the public reports of high rates of complications. It appears this work was done carefully and skillfully, and I congratulate you.

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