

# EDITORIAL

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Topic: HOSPITAL INSPECTION REPORTS II  
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I'm standing in front of Madison Avenue Hospital--a private, proprietary hospital which is one of the hospitals inspected by a State Health Department team last September.

That team concluded that this hospital was in only marginal compliance with the state's Health Code. That conclusion is contained in this summary report of the inspection--a summary which you, the public are not permitted to see.

There are other things in the reports which trouble us. For instance, as of last September, the inspectors found this:

"Food service, with respect to exposure, dispensing equipment, proper temperature and conveying equipment is rated as poor.

Food utensils as to cleaning equipment, sanitation, storage is rated as poor.

Food equipment, as to space, design, cleanliness is rated as not satisfactory (unacceptable)."

Also, the hospital has a fire safety deficiency--only one means of egress. And it is not the only hospital in the city with such problems.

The State Health Department does not yet have a full hospital inspection team. And the Department has not yet returned to this hospital to see if the code deficiencies found in September have been corrected.

The state should adopt the same system of reporting on hospital inspections that New York City's Health Department uses for reporting on restaurant inspections. That is, the state should set up an Unsafe and/or Dirty Hospitals list. If hospitals don't bring themselves into compliance with the hospital code, then the lists should be published. And, at all times, the latest inspection report is available to the public at their request --at the hospital.

As the city discovered, making the inspection results available to the public gets things cleaned up--and fast. The state should set up a hospital reporting system--now.

(filmed on location)