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Tenet Healthcare Corporation. Q1 2009 Earnings Call Transcript

Question-and-Answer Session

Operator

(Operator Instructions) Our first question comes from Ralph Giacobbe of Credit Suisse.

Ralph Giacobbe – Credit Suisse

Thanks, good morning.

Trevor Fetter

Hi, Ralph

Ralph Giacobbe – Credit Suisse

I just want to go back. Good morning. Just want to go back to just the comments around, slight deterioration of self-pay at the end of the quarter. Can you flush that out at all for us and then maybe just remind us what the, if you have given sort of the bad debt assumptions for the year and or maybe, where you think unemployment, sort of shakes out in your market based on your guidance.

Trevor Fetter

Okay well in terms of a collection rates we actually disclosed I believe the collection rates in their earnings release so you can see them there they, did move downward over the course of last year and then slightly more in the first quarter the effects aren't too dramatic on the quarter, but nonetheless they that they're represent a trend, which we are watching carefully. The let's see the second part of your question was..

Ralph Giacobbe – Credit Suisse

Just implied, and sort of implied maybe unemployment in the markets based on?

Trevor Fetter

Okay, on the unemployment rates, they very significantly market-by-market some markets like Modesto, California had very high unemployment, others are lower than national average have we are having said that, we don't see a strong correlation between unemployment and uninsured volumes or bad debt expenses. There are many markets were unemployment rising higher than national average, but we actually have increase in the commercial paying patients and paying patients and don't have increases in uninsured and then there are other market, which operate more

like what you would anticipate so, unfortunately I know it would be nice to be able to model it. You just can't draw an absolute correlation.

Ralph Giacobbe – Credit Suisse

Okay and then, and sort of follow-up can you maybe talk about what you're seeing in your markets. I think you mentioned during your prepared remarks a little about sort of the not-for-profit, peers. Can you talk about your ability to maybe take share, just given, maybe they're struggles a little bit more and just their, dynamics around that, and at which point maybe we can more meaningfully potentially see it?

Trevor Fetter

Sure it's, it is very similar to what we said on the last call that not-for-profit it's hard to generalize some are doing well, but many of them are in distress and cutting their capital expenditures and it's a great time to be competing.

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