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February 11, 2008

Mark P. Volavka  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Thank you for the opportunity to review our 2006 infection data and give comment in advance.

We have made significant improvement as seen in the comparison data of fourth quarter 2005 vs. fourth quarter 2006. We decreased our cases with infections by nearly half. Specifically, we have made improvements reducing device associated bloodstream infection, device and non-device associated pneumonia, and non-device associated urinary tract infections. This dramatic reduction of infection continued in 2007 as well. Our rate of infection for all urinary tract infection types and pneumonia are below those of our peer group in 2006. While we have had success in these areas, we recognize other areas where improvement is needed. For example, in 2006 we had an increase in the number of *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD) cases, which increased our rate of gastrointestinal infections. We have since put many infection prevention strategies into place and in 2007 have seen a decrease in the CDAD infection category as well as others.

We will continue to focus on the prevention of all infections and utilize evidence-based best practices where applicable. On behalf of all the staff at Hahnemann University Hospital, we again thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Michael P. Halter.

Michael P. Halter  
CEO

Handwritten signature of George Amrom.

George Amrom, MD  
Vice President Medical Affairs

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey M. Jacobson, M.D.

Jeffrey Jacobson, MD  
Hospital Epidemiologist

Handwritten signature of Cindy Osterman.

Cindy Osterman, RN, MSN  
Senior Nursing Director

Handwritten signature of Barbara Fry-Arrighy.

Barbara Fry-Arrighy, BS, MT(ASCP) SM, CIC  
Director Infection Control/Epidemiology

