

SHARON REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

February 19, 2008



*Advanced Care
Close to Home*

Advanced Wound Recovery Center
Behavioral Health Services
Brain Attack/Stroke Center
Breast Care Center
Cancer Care Center
Chest Pain Emergency Center
Comprehensive Pain Management Center
Corporate Health Services
Diabetes Center
Diagnostic & Imaging Center
Ear, Nose, Throat & Hearing Center
Emergency Care Center
Express Care
Family Medicine Centers
Heart Institute
Home Health Agency
Hospice/Palliative Care
Hospital
Inpatient Rehab Unit
Physician Services
Rehabilitation Services
School of Nursing
School of Radiography
Sleep Center
Surgical Services
Therapeutic Pool
Transitional Care Unit
Women's Center

Facility Locations
Sharon
Hermitage
Mercer
Greenville
Brookfield, OH

Main Campus
740 East State Street
Sharon, PA 16146-3395
724-983-3911
www.sharonregional.com

John A. Zidansek
President & CEO

A Smoke/Tobacco
Free Facility

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Health Care Cost Containment Council's *Hospital-acquired Infection Report* for 2006. The Health System has aggressively addressed HAIs over the past few years.

Sharon Regional has participated in the ventilator-care bundle initiative and received national awards for extraordinarily low levels of ventilator-associated pneumonia. This achievement is reflected in our impressive device-associated pneumonia rate.

Bloodstream infections in patients with central lines are also dramatically low and we also received an additional national award for this initiative. The Health System established a multi-disciplinary performance improvement team in 2003, identified areas for improvement, and have achieved positive outcomes for our patients.

Urinary tract infections associated with Foley catheters have been a focus initiative at Sharon Regional. In comparing fourth quarter 2005 to fourth quarter 2006, there is a 46% decrease attributed to changes in our protocols. We are also below our peer group in catheter-associated urinary tract infections per 1000 cases and are continuing to work on decreasing UTIs.

In conclusion, Sharon Regional Health System appreciates the opportunity to comment on these cases. We support the public's right to transparency and have thoroughly complied with all reporting requirements for infection identification by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. Infection prevention has been and will continue to be a priority for us.

Sincerely,

John A. Zidansek
President & CEO