



North Penn Orthopedics

May 4, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

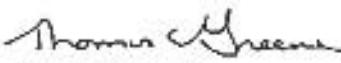
This letter is in response to the Total Hip and Knee Replacements completed between 7/01/01 -6/30/02. All three of these cases were flagged due to accurate coding, following nationally recognized guidelines. In each of the three readmissions flagged, neither of the two mechanical complications and the one probable infection/pain are attributable to the care rendered by the Surgeon and/or the Hospital.

The two re-admissions for mechanical malfunctions were a direct result of trauma occurring in the patients home environment. These traumatic events both required surgery be performed on readmission. The one re-admission for possible infection and pain related to the device demonstrated no infection as confirmed by negative cultures and the pain secondary to spine etiology.

These results were clearly flagged due to coding and PHC4 guidelines being followed, not due to any adverse events related to the hospital or surgeon.

Sincerely,


Peter Wang, MD
Chair, Department of Orthopedics CMMC


Thomas Greene, MD