

May 6, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

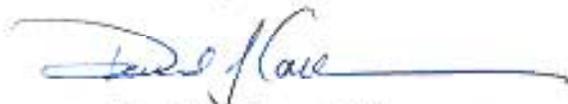
The Chambersburg Hospital appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Total Hip and Knee Replacement Study that will be released to the public in June 2005.

As reported, the readmission rate noted in your report was 8.5%. This totaled 18 readmissions within 30 days of the patient's surgery. All of these readmissions were reviewed. As an institution, we review all areas of care provided to our patients and utilize this information to support our quality review process. We were not able to review one record due to the fact this patient was not readmitted to our facility.

A variety of reporting methodologies are used in health care to provide the framework for benchmarking. As we all know, there are many areas where there are differing opinions on how to best reflect this comparison. To that end, we believe that the report does not capture the reason for readmission. This study does not indicate whether readmissions were planned (i.e., scheduled), the result of an emergency situation not related to the surgery, or due to chronic medical problems present prior to the patient's surgery.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the information included in this report.

Sincerely,



David Carlson, D.O.,  
Vice President Medical Affairs

DC/sb

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