



Clearfield Hospital

April 28, 2005

Marc P. Volavka, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street
Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Clearfield Hospital would like to comment on PHC4's Total Hip and Total Replacement Report for the period of 07/01/2001 – 06/30/2002. The report indicated that our facility had a higher than expected wound infection rate. The rating was indicative of 2 actual infections, both readmissions indicating that the infection occurred after the patients left our facility, therefore patient / home environment played a factor in the increased rate.

Of significance is that Clearfield Hospital has an ongoing monitor relating to nosocomial surgical site infections and has shown an improvement in our number of infections since this total joint report. In fact, Clearfield Hospital is proud of its overall nosocomial surgical site infection rate, noting an overall rate for 2004 to be 0.2%.

Our facility takes outcome reporting, such as this report, as an external review and an opportunity for internal quality review.

We thank you for allowing us to comment on our outlier and to participate in this outcome study. This report provides our facility comparison data for the total joint population so that we can better evaluate our own outcomes.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Murray, III
President & CEO