



*Cowdrey Club Road
Monongahela, PA 15063-1093
717-258-8000
www.monvalleyhospital.com*

April 25 2005

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The following are the comments submitted on behalf of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. in response to the release of The Report on Total Hip and Knee Replacement FY 2002.

The Hospital was identified as having a statistically significant high readmission rate. There was a total of 198 joint replacements performed and 18 patients were readmitted within 30 days.

Following review of the cases it was determined that only one (1) of the readmissions within 30 days was related to the recent knee surgery. The remaining patients were readmitted with conditions completely unrelated to the joint replacement surgery such as appendicitis, kidney stone, gall bladder disease and irregular heart beats. It was not possible to foresee the development of these unrelated conditions, therefore, the readmissions were unavoidable and were not as a result of the surgical procedure.

The Hospital has an effective Performance Improvement program that monitors patient care being provided at the organization on an ongoing basis. The Hospital's mission is to enhance the health of the residents of the mid-Mon Valley and the Hospital continues its commitment to provide our community with the highest quality care to meet their health care needs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna L. Ramusivich".

Donna L. Ramusivich
Senior Vice President

DLR:kq