



EASTON HOSPITAL

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October 10, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Easton Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on certain issues relating our Hospital Performance Report for the fiscal year 2002. Each year we dutifully review this report and look for opportunities within this data to improve performance.

Please accept the following comments regarding the data in your report:

The Performance Report indicates that Easton Hospital's mortality rating was greater than expected for "Abnormal Heartbeat". Upon extensive review this represented eight patients admitted with complex medical conditions and significant co-morbidities. Six out the eight patients or 75% of the deaths had "Do Not Resuscitate" orders (DNR) in accordance with the wishes of the patients and their families. One out of the eight patients or 12.5% was a "limited code". The remaining one patient of the eight, 12.5%, was diagnosed with complete heart block and subsequently refused medical treatment.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment to this report and the inclusion of this information with the published report.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Wildrick, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer