



**Ephrata  
Community  
Hospital**

169 Martin Avenue • P.O. Box 1002 • Ephrata, PA 17522-1002 • (717) 733-0311 • Fax (717) 733-0876  
[www.ephratahospital.org](http://www.ephratahospital.org)

October 13, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

I am writing in regards to the increased mortality statistics in Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) for diagnosis in the PHC4 Hospital Performance Report for Ephrata Community Hospital. I would like to offer some information to help in interpretation of our statistics.

The increased mortalities reported for the CHF diagnosis were due to several predictable factors. All the patients were 70 years of age or older so advanced age was a contributing factor. They all had co-morbidities contributing to their poor prognosis. All had either "do not resuscitate" or "comfort measure only" orders limiting a more aggressive treatment plan. While we care for each patients' unique health concerns, in this patient group we were more concerned with the quality of their life and dignified death than engaging in futile heroics to merely prolong their lives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vincent D. Glielmi, DO  
Vice President for Medical Affairs