



October 14, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Frick Hospital is appreciative of the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council to improve quality and cost efficiency of medical care.

Frick Hospital had variances of outcomes for heart attack and pneumonia patients.

There were 157 patients admitted to Frick Hospital with heart attacks from 10/01/01 through 9/30/02. There were 19 deaths. Sixty seven (67) survivors transferred out for cardiac catheterization and interventions were removed from the denominator in calculating the mortality rate leaving non-survivors and do not resuscitate patients with poor prognosis. If all admissions were included, the mortality outcome would be within the expected range. All heart attack death charts were reviewed and no quality issues were found.

There were 11 mortalities out of 158 admissions for pneumonia. All of the mortality patients were 80 years of age or older with an average age of 84. Eight of the 11 patients were made do not resuscitate. All of the mortality patients received intravenous antibiotics in the Emergency Department within four hours as well as appropriate consultation. All standards of care were met. We believe these mortalities were age related.

Sincerely yours,


Donald L. Kettering, MD
Medical Director
Frick Hospital

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