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**Jeffrey R. Folk, MD**  
Medical Director



Heal. Teach. Discover. Serve.

October 14, 2003

Mr. Marc P. Volavka  
Executive Director  
PHC4  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center appreciates the work of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and considers the Hospital Performance Report one of many indicators of quality and service.

Analysis of the Federal Fiscal Year 2002 report for Geisinger Wyoming Valley shows that the medical center is performing well. We did want to comment specifically, though, on the following:

- Blood Clot in Lung- The shorter length of stay in the hospital for patients with this condition is due to Geisinger Wyoming Valley's effective outpatient treatment program and the availability of additional treatments that do not need to be provided in the inpatient setting. Additionally, the number of cases in the report is only 15. With such a small number of cases, the statistics can be affected by a single patient staying a shorter amount of time in the hospital.
- Cirrhosis & Alcoholic Hepatitis- With a chronic medical condition such as this, the reasons for hospitalization and the subsequent length of stay can be affected by a number of different variables. This could account for the shorter length of stay at Geisinger Wyoming Valley. Once again, the number of cases is only 18, meaning a single patient could affect the overall result.
- Bone Cancer and Non-Traumatic Fractures- The PHC4 Report reflects a higher than expected mortality rate for these patients, however, the total number of cases is only 30. This low number of total cases could skew the overall results. The medical center and its staff willingly accept the responsibility of caring for seriously ill patients such as these and making them comfortable.

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center thanks the PHC4 for its continued work to help improve healthcare in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Folk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey R. Folk, M.D.  
Medical Director