



Fourth and Walnut Streets • P.O. Box 1281 • Lebanon, PA 17042-1281 • (717) 270-7500

October 15, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

The Good Samaritan Hospital continues to support the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4's) efforts to disclose information that promotes thoughtful discussion. We once again thank you for the opportunity to comment upon *the Hospital Performance Report* for Federal Year 2002 data.

Although we are unable to fully replicate the Council's report methodology, we did review the results and would like to comment upon the reported mortality rating for Blood Clot in Extremities. As stated in the report, we had seventy-three (73) patients in this PHC4 report category, including two (2) patients that expired. According to the report's methodology, one of the deaths caused the higher than expected mortality rate.

A specific review of the aforementioned case revealed that the eighty-six (86) year-old patient was admitted to our hospital from a nursing home with multiple co-morbid conditions. Per record documentation, the patient had been physically inactive for approximately one (1) month and was primarily wheelchair-bound. Upon admission, the patient was found to have an extensive lower extremity deep vein thrombosis, which extended from the patient's calf to the groin region. The patient was placed on an appropriate treatment protocol and in a timely manner for this condition. The patient expired within one (1) day of admission. A fact that is not reportable through the current data collection methodology is that the patient's record contained a "Do Not Resuscitate" order.

The results of this latest PHC4 report continue to reflect The Good Samaritan Hospital's commitment to the delivery of quality, cost-effective patient care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Jacobson".

Mark Jacobson, D.O.  
Vice President, Medical Affairs