

INDIANA
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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,

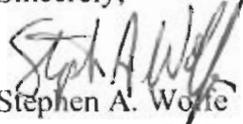
We have reviewed the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's Hospital Performance report for 2002 and offer the following comment.

The report indicates Indiana Regional Medical Center had a mortality rate higher than expected for DRG 416 - Septicemia.

There were 26 mortalities for 102 included cases. All but one of these patients had "do not resuscitate" orders at the request of the patient or family. 20 of the 26 were admitted from ER from skilled nursing facilities. The average age of these patients was 79.3 years. Many of these patients had underlying pre-existing conditions, which included Congestive Heart Failure, Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiac Disease, and Renal Disease.

We will continue to monitor and trend this data as it is used for ongoing quality activities.

Sincerely,


Stephen A. Wolfe
President & CEO