



LANCASTER 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:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the hospital performance data for calendar year 2001.

In most cases, Lancaster Regional Medical Center's charges are in line with and usually below the state average charges. The report encompasses only 28 DRGs or conditions out of more than 400 DRGs and is not an overall summary of the charges for the facility.

In two of the DRGs/conditions studied, the mortality rate was higher than expected. Review of these particular records revealed patients with complex conditions and comorbidities that complicated their hospital course and outcome. There were two DRGs/conditions that had lower than expected mortality rates.

There were two DRGs/conditions that had significantly higher than expected long length of stay outliers. The LOS of the first condition was adversely affected in some instances by issues with discharge planning and family decisions. The LOS of the second DRG/condition had low patient volume. In addition, there was one case in this category with a LOS of 47 days that greatly skewed the overall statistics. All 47 days met acute hospitalization criteria.

We support PHC4 in its efforts to provide the consumer with quality information to assist in medical decision-making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Brazitis".

Mark A Brazitis
Chief Executive Officer