



October 13, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

These comments are being sent in response to the data received which is intended for publication in the Hospital Performance Report for 2002.

In examining the cases with higher than expected mortality for our facility many contributing factors were discovered.

Of the mortalities occurring in those patients treated for Hip Fracture – Surgical Repair, all were over 79 years of age and had a coexisting cardiac condition; 60% had a history of advanced lung disease. Other co-morbid conditions included prior CVA and renal failure. In addition, 60% had “Do Not Resuscitate”, DNR orders.

Of the deaths occurring in DRG 243, Medical Back Problems, all were over 79 years old with multiple coexisting conditions. Coexisting conditions include chronic lung and cardiac disease, and most significantly advanced metastatic cancer. Also, 60% of these patients had DNR orders.

Following review of the cases in the report it was determined that appropriate medical care was provided to these patients and they died as a result of multiple significant medical conditions.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on these findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Weygandt, MD, JD".

Paul Weygandt, MD, JD
VP, Medical Affairs

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