

**NASON HOSPITAL**

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October 14, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

We received the 2001 Hospital Performance Report prepared by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this data.

The report indicates that our risk-adjusted mortality and length of stay were not statistically different than expected for the DRGs reported, with the exception of heart attack, congestive heart failure and anemia. Our mortality rate for medically managed heart attacks was reported as higher than expected at 50%. Of the 52 heart attack patients we cared for, 39 were treated and transferred to other acute care hospitals with invasive cardiology programs. The council excluded these 39 patients, as well as 1 other patient from the mortality rate calculation. When considering all 52 patients, our mortality rate was 11.5%. Our records show that all 39 transferred patients were still alive four months after transfer.

Review of the 13 cases not transferred to another facility shows the patients were either not candidates for, or chose not to proceed with, cardiac catheterization or other invasive cardiology procedures. They were discharged as follows: Three to long term care facilities, three to rehab hospital, three to home care and six expired. Of the six who expired, all had do-not-resuscitate orders, their average age was 81, their average severity score was 3 and all had comorbid conditions, including renal failure, congestive heart failure, chronic lung disease, neurological disorders and cancer.

Overall, the PHC4 2002 performance report demonstrates that Nason hospital has good outcomes. The information from this report will be utilized in our continuous quality improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett W. Hoover'.

Garrett W. Hoover
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Kirsch'.

William J. Kirsch, M.D.
President, Medical Staff