

October 10, 2002

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

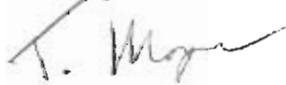
Dear Mr. Volavka:

On behalf of Pennsylvania Hospital, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2002 Hospital Performance Report. We appreciate the time and effort involved in reporting information related to cost and outcomes of healthcare in Pennsylvania. After careful review of the report, we would like to provide these additional observations.

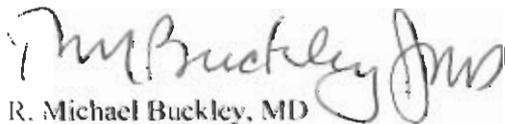
Two DRGs with greater than expected mortality rates were reported for Pennsylvania Hospital. The mortality rate for DRG 12 - Degenerative Neurologic Disorders included two patients who were admitted with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis presenting in respiratory distress. After discussion with the families the decision was made not to resuscitate due to the progression of this terminal degenerative neurologic disease. The patients were provided comfort and supportive palliative care. DRG 76 - Miscellaneous Lung Procedures, Complicated, included a number of patients with complex medical conditions and significant co-morbidities. The patients were admitted from the emergency department with high admission severity scores and high probability of death. Three of the patients had metastatic lung cancer, one had metastatic pancreatic cancer, and one had severe COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Despite surgical and medical treatments and resuscitative efforts, "Do Not Resuscitate" orders were requested.

We continuously review the quality of patient care at Pennsylvania Hospital for improvement opportunities. Thank you for the inclusion of this information with the published report.

Sincerely,



Timothy O. Morgan  
Executive Director



R. Michael Buckley, MD  
Chief Medical Officer