



Roger Winn
President and
Chief Executive Officer

10455 Lincoln Highway
Everett, PA 15537-7046
(814) 823-6161
Fax: (814) 623-7202
www.bedford.org

October 9, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

As always, we welcome the opportunity to use the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's report based on the data from Atlas to evaluate our acute care in the areas of Mortality, LOS and Ancillary charges. As the 2002 data demonstrates our figures have, once again, made us one of the top hospitals in our region.

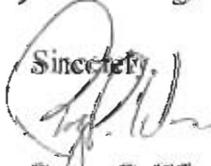
We have reviewed the Hospital's Performance Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2002, October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002. UPMC Bedford Memorial would like to remind everyone who reviews the data that we are an outlier due to our exceedingly short length of stay, which is, in fact, a reflection of efficient and effective care.

UPMC Bedford Memorial provides aggressive and efficient care. We work very hard to provide the patients the care they need in the most efficacious manner resulting in efficiencies in length of stay. Our readmission and mortality rates speak for themselves and do not reflect a problem with patients being discharged prematurely.

The data reveals that UPMC Bedford Memorial is identified as having significantly shorter lengths of stay in:

- abnormal heartbeat,
- congestive heart failure,
- heart attack - medical management,
- pneumonia - infectious, and
- stroke – non-hemorrhagic.

As stated previously, we welcome the opportunity that the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's report provides to help us identify any problem areas if there are any. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written explanation of why we have significant lower lengths of stay in the five disease states listed above.

Sincerely,

Roger P. Winn
President/CEO