



September 20, 2006

Mr. Mark 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 respond to this year's Hospital Performance Report. Specifically, the mortality rate for the 'Diagnoses Related Group (DRG)243- Medical Back Problems' indicated CMMC had a higher than expected Mortality Rate. There were two out of twenty-eight patients in DRG 243 who died. After reviewing these medical records in detail, it is important to state, their deaths were clearly not attributable to their back problems and not due to their hospitalization, but clearly their deaths were due to multiple complicated pre-existing medical conditions and co-morbidities.

To further clarify, it is important to note this DRG classification, 243, *is not surgical in nature, and is only medical in nature.* In addition, to reiterate, both of these cases had an unusual amount of complicating medical conditions causing their death. These conditions were present prior to being treated at CMMC and unrelated to their medical back problems. Most important is the fact, both of these patients received excellent hospital care for all of their respective medical conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Miller", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

George Miller, CEO