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September 12, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

The following are the comments submitted on behalf of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. in response to the release of The Hospital Performance Report for October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005.

The Hospital was identified as having a statistically significant high mortality rate in two (2) areas: Stomach/Intestinal Bleeding and Surgical Repair of Hip Fracture.

The Hospital treated 172 patients with stomach/intestinal bleeding and eight (8) patients died. The average age of the patients who died was 77.1 years old. Four (4) of the patients died within one (1) day of hospital admission and two (2) patients died within two (2) days of hospital admission. These patients were critically ill at the time of admission. Two (2) patients had Do Not Resuscitate Orders signed by the patient or significant other due to the overall poor health condition of the patient. These patients had previous/additional medical conditions which included congestive heart failure, chronic renal failure, severe malnutrition, bronchogenic carcinoma, ovarian cancer, breast cancer with metastasis, multiple myeloma, previous stroke and senile dementia which also negatively impacted their survivability.

The Hospital treated 113 patients having a surgical repair of a hip fracture and eight (8) patients died. The average age of the patients who died was 85 years old. Five (5) patients had Do Not Resuscitate Orders signed by the patient or significant other due to the overall poor health condition of the patient. These patients also had previous/additional medical conditions which impacted survivability including: chronic obstructive lung disease, lung cancer (newly diagnosed), congestive heart failure, leukemia, severe malnutrition, and chronic kidney failure. These patients were debilitated, elderly patients who suffered a traumatic fall prior to admission with multiple medical conditions affecting their outcomes.

The Hospital has an effective Performance Improvement program and all of these cases were reviewed as part of that program. Following review, no areas of concern were identified.



The Hospital's mission is to enhance the health of the residents of the mid-Monongahela Valley and the Hospital continues its commitment to provide our community with the highest quality care to meet their health care needs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Ramusivich". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Donna L. Ramusivich
Senior Vice President

DLR:kq