  
**UNIONTOWN HOSPITAL**  
Getting better is what we're all about

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

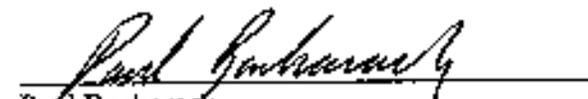
Dear Mr. Volavka:

The Uniontown Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the opportunity to comment on issues related to our data from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. The hospital was identified as having a higher than expected number of mortalities in the following four categories: (1) Blood Clot in Lung, (2) DRG 415-Surgery for Infectious or Parasitic Disease, (3) Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections, and (4) Kidney Failure.

All of these cases were reviewed as part of Uniontown Hospital's Performance Improvement Program. All of the patients had contributing factors such as advanced age, severity of illness at the time of admission, probability of death at the time of admission, and pre-existing co-morbid conditions, i.e., end stage cancer with metastasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, stroke, diabetes, septicemia, senile dementia, etc. The average age of the patients that died was eighty years with 54% being over eighty-five years. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of these patients had Do Not Resuscitate orders. These orders represent patient or family requests that no resuscitation or extraordinary measures be used to preserve or extend the patient's life due to the overall poor health condition of the patient.

In conclusion, it is the intent of Uniontown Hospital to provide a high quality of health care and to improve the health status of the people we serve, keeping consistent with our goal of clinical and service quality excellence.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Bacharach  
President/CEO

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