



**PennState Health**  
St. Joseph

September 23, 2016

Joe Martin, Executive Director  
PA Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Who Whom It May Concern:

Our facility inadvertently included an expired hospice case in the abnormal heartbeat category. As you know, hospice cases should not be submitted to PHC4 as mortalities. Unfortunately this inaccuracy was discovered beyond the allowable timeframe for corrections.

Therefore, this case was included in our statistical analysis. Had this case not been included in the analysis, our facility would not have received a rating of significantly higher than expected mortality.

A new process has been implemented at Penn State Health St. Joseph to prevent this errant reporting from occurring in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Newman".

Christopher Newman, MD, MBA  
Chief Medical Officer  
Penn State Health St. Joseph