



Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton  
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LVHN.org

November 13, 2018

Joseph Martin, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market St., Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this year's report.

We are very pleased with the results of the data presented to us this year by the Health Care Cost Containment Council. We have only one fallout in the categories: sepsis readmissions. This was not present on our previous report, but has been identified internally as a problematic area. We have a multidisciplinary team in place to address readmissions. The team not only includes hospital personnel, but also has representatives from local home health and skilled nursing facilities. We hope to see our improvement in our readmission rate reflected in next years' report.

The remainder of the categories show our hospital to be within the expected range. This is a testament to our very aggressive team approach to quality improvement, which has been very successful in correcting previous issues. We are proud of our teams, and it is very gratifying to see our hard work pay off.

Our commitment to providing cost-effective, quality health care to our community drives our corporate vision. We will continue to strive for further improvement in our care of our patients, and we look forward to your reports for use as benchmarks in our continuing quality improvement projects.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Vilushis".

Barbara A. Vilushis, DO  
Associate Medical Director, Lehigh Valley Hospital- Hazleton