

April 16, 2015

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 Knee and Hip Replacement report.

We are very pleased with the overall results of the data presented to us by the Health Care Cost Containment Council. We have a very aggressive team approach to quality improvement, which has been very successful.

This year's report contains an area of focus regarding readmission, specifically in the category of hip replacement. This category contained only six cases. Two of the six cases were readmitted within 30 days for a readmission rate of 33.3%. One of those cases was readmitted for a seroma, a known complication of the procedure. The other case was readmitted due to a complication caused by his cardiac medication, specifically an anticoagulant for a cardiac condition. Both cases were reviewed, and no deviation from the standard of care was found.

The readmission rate of 33.3% is, on the surface, disturbing. However, this number is skewed by the low number of cases listed for the reporting period. Our volume was unusually low during the period. Previous reports reflected higher volumes with a readmission rate within the expected range.

Our commitment to providing cost-effective, quality health care to our community drives our corporate vision. We look forward to your reports for use as benchmarks in our continuing quality improvement projects.

Yours truly,



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