



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

March 11, 2016

Dear Mr. Martin,

Mount Nittany Medical Center reviewed the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council's Report on Complications Following Knee and Hip Replacements (2014 data). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the report.

We at Mount Nittany Medical Center support and utilize comparative reports to identify opportunities for improvement. Continuous analysis of comparative data is included in our internal performance improvement process and through participation in national quality reporting initiatives such as those coordinated by The Joint Commission and The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The following comments are offered on the knee replacement complications and readmissions that were "significantly higher than expected" in the report. In 2014, prior to any public report, we noted an increase in infections related to knee replacement surgery. Our orthopedic surgeons worked with our Infection Prevention and Control Committee to investigate and identify opportunities for improvement. Although we did not find a common cause of the infections, we used this opportunity review our processes. In 2015, our infection rate for knee replacement surgery was lower than the comparative data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – National Healthcare Safety Network.

Mount Nittany Medical Center is currently participating in multiple state and national quality collaborations, including the American Joint Replacement Registry. We are continually utilizing evidence-based guidelines to facilitate improved clinical outcomes for our patients. We regularly evaluate clinical care based on evidence-based performance measures and use those to constantly improve our patient care and services.

Thank you for your commitment to transparency in healthcare quality and for the opportunity to comment on this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Brown", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steven E. Brown, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer