



Elk Regional Health Center

An Affiliate of Elk Regional Health System

September 13, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please find below Elk Regional Health Center's comments about data to be reported by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's FFY 2009 Hospital Performance Report.

Comment 1:

This report shows that patients with chest pain who are admitted to Elk Regional have a higher-than-expected length of stay. Elk Regional has no readmission outliers on this report, which means that the hospital is at "expected" rates for chest pain readmissions. This means that, although chest pain patients stay longer than "expected," the care they received was appropriate and prevented a readmission with the same diagnosis.

Comment 2:

This report shows that patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease who are admitted to Elk Regional have a shorter-than-expected short-term length of stay. Elk Regional has no readmission outliers on this report, which means that the hospital is at "expected" rates for COPD readmissions. This means that, although COPD patients stay less time than is "expected," the care they received was appropriate and they do not suffer post-discharge complications that would require readmission with the same diagnosis.

Comment 3:

This report shows that patients with Congestive Heart Failure who are admitted to Elk Regional have a shorter-than-expected short-term length of stay. Elk Regional has no readmission outliers on this report, which means that the hospital is at "expected" rates for Congestive Heart Failure readmissions. This means that, although Congestive Heart Failure patients stay less time than is "expected," the care they received was appropriate and they do not suffer post-discharge complications that would require readmission with the same diagnosis.

Comment 4:

This report shows that patients with Septicemia who are admitted to Elk Regional have a shorter-than-expected short-term length of stay. Elk Regional has no readmission outliers on this report, which means that the hospital is at "expected" rates for Septicemia readmissions. This means

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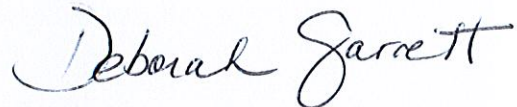
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that, although Septicemia patients stay less time than is “expected,” the care they received was appropriate and they do not suffer post-discharge complications that would require readmission with the same diagnosis.

We appreciate the opportunity to attach comments to Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council’s report. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (814) 788-8552 or Matthew Romania, our Director of Quality, at (814) 788-8800.

Sincerely,



Deborah F. Garrett, RN, MBA
Chief Nursing Officer
Vice President, Patient Care Services

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