

September 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

We have received the PHC4's FFY 2009 Hospital Performance Report and appreciate the opportunity to again review and comment on this data.

The report indicates our data was not statistically different than expected for the conditions reported, with the exception of our readmissions for Abnormal Heartbeat, and mortality ratings in COPD, Heart Attack – Medical Management, and Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections. The data has been reviewed, and we have identified the following patient characteristics which account for this statistical difference as follows:

***Readmissions for Abnormal Heartbeat***

- Of the total 68 cases, 57 cases were included in the analysis; there were 15 readmissions (27.8%)
- 5 of the readmissions (33.3%) were unrelated to the first visit
- 10 cases (66.6%) were readmitted within 14 days; 2 of those cases (20%) were unrelated to the first visit
- Of the 10 readmissions within 14 days, 2 (20%) were SNF transfers; 2 (20%) Short Term General Hospital transfers and 1 (10%) was Short Term Rehab Hospital transfer
- Patient's ages ranged from 67 to 98; the 67-year old expired on readmission due to malignant neoplasm of the abdomen; 6 patients (40%) were 90 + years of age.

***Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease***

- Of the 30 cases included, 2 mortalities (6.7%) were identified; 1 (50%) was admitted with a do-not-resuscitate status. This 73-year old expired < 1 day after admission
- The 59-year-old patient expired within hours of admission having a prior admission just 6 days earlier with history of recurrent pneumonia
- Both patients had multiple comorbidities complicating their treatment; these patients were chronically ill with end stage disease.
- Patient's ages were 59 and 73.

Mr. Joseph Martin  
September 15, 2010  
Page 2

***Heart Attack – Medical Management***

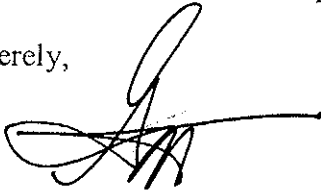
- Of the 6 cases included, 3 (50%) were mortalities
- 2 (66.7%) of these mortalities were an 89 and 90-year-old patients, who expired within hours of admission; both were do-not-resuscitate status on admission.
- The third patient, a 77-year-old patient, had multiple comorbidities complicating his treatment including leukemia; CHF, and malignant neoplasm of the prostate; his status was changed to do-not-resuscitate within 2 days of admission

***Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections***

- Of the 68 cases included, 3 (4.4%) were mortalities
- All 3 patients were admitted through the Emergency Department and had multiple comorbidities complicating their treatment.
- The status of all 3 patients was changed to do-not-resuscitate following admission
- The patient's ages were 83, 85 and 90

The information from this report will be utilized in our continuous quality improvement efforts.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Hoover, MA, MHA, FACHE  
President/CEO

GWH/vmb

cc: Renee L. Jones, President, Medical Staff  
Debra G. McGraw, RN, MHSA, Vice-President Patient Care Services  
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