



Affiliated with Sacred Heart HealthCare System

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September 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2009 Hospital Performance Report representing Sacred Heart Hospital.

After investigation of the two mortalities in the category of Stomach and Intentional Complications and Disorders, we determined that one patient was terminally ill when admitted and death was expected. The other patient was elderly with multiple co-morbidities including previous heart surgery and leukemia.

All patient mortalities are reviewed on an individual basis through our Quality process to identify potential areas of improvement.

Regarding the readmissions in the Medical Back category, one patient was terminal and the other patients were admitted for a non-related condition or procedure.

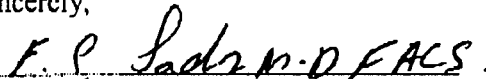
Review of the readmission outliers in the Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections category indicated three of the fifteen patients readmitted back to our hospital were related to the same diagnosis. Of those three, two were elderly nursing home residents with multiple medical co-morbidities and the other patient suffered from chronic urinary issues for several years.

The care rendered to all these patients was appropriate and they were all medically stable at the time of their initial discharges.

Sacred Heart Hospital welcomes the opportunity to use the information from the Council to improve the care we provide to our patients.

We are committed to providing the highest quality of care.

Sincerely,


Farrokh S. Sadr, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Affairs