



NORTH PHILADELPHIA
HEALTH SYSTEM

We care for the community.



September 17, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

In response to the data in PHC4's Report for St. Joseph's Hospital where the mortality for Septicemia and Colorectal Procedures were significantly higher than expected, we have found the following data to apply:

Septicemia-discharges from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009:

90 cases were discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital with a diagnosis of Septicemia and 30 cases expired. Of those 30 cases, 21 cases, or 70% were admitted with a diagnosis of Septicemia. 5 cases, or 16% of the patients were in cardiac arrest en route to the hospital and expired within 24 hours.

Colorectal Procedures- discharges from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009:

15 cases were discharged from St. Joseph's Hospital after having a colorectal procedure. There were 3 mortalities. Case review of the 3 mortalities revealed the following:

- one case involved an 84 year old patient that had a bleeding rectal mass. This patient's status was changed to "do not resuscitate".
- one case came in with a GI bleed. This patient was already had a "do not resuscitate" status.
- the third patient had GI bleeding and was taken to the operating room to control the bleeding. Surgery revealed advanced colon cancer and no resection could be performed.

Sincerely,

Catherin E. Kutzler, MSHA
Senior Vice President, CEO