



September 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the **PHC4 Hospital Performance Report** data for **FFY 2009** representing Windber Medical Center.

Regarding the **Mortality** outliers noted in the report, most cases were attributed to Hospice patients or patients having a DNR status. Although recent registration changes affecting WMC Hospice patients became effective on 7/1/10, the exclusion of Hospice patients from WMC's data will not be evident in the HPR reports for 3 more quarters.

Outlier cases for **Readmission after Respiratory Failure without Mechanical Ventilation** were found to be appropriate. Generally, these patients were elderly with significant chronic conditions and they resided in a nursing home environment prior to readmission.

In the category of **Short LOS Outlier for Kidney and UTI**, each patient was appropriately discharged with follow-up plans for skilled nursing care or Hospice home care.

Respectfully,

Barbara Cliff, PhD
President & CEO