



# Allegheny General Hospital

Allegheny General Hospital  
320 East North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4772  
Tel 412 359-3131

November 26, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Martin,

Allegheny General Hospital would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the opportunity to review and comment on the results of the Calendar Year 2012, Hospital Performance Report. We recognize and support the value of transparency in the public reporting of such outcomes.

In the current report, AGH was identified as having higher than expected mortality rating in the COPD cohort. Of the 197 patients with exacerbation of COPD treated at AGH during the time period, there were four mortalities. The expected mortality range based on our patient volume and level of acuity was 0-3 deaths. Three of the four patients had very advanced disease and each had made the decision to limit the extent of support that they would accept. In two patients, worsening of other chronic medical conditions was a greater contributor to the outcome than was COPD exacerbation. Each case was reviewed through our Performance Improvement Department as part of our ongoing commitment to optimizing patient care and no specific areas of concern were noted.

Through our efforts to improve patient outcomes, AGH will continue to utilize this information in conjunction with additional sources of comparative data to monitor and improve the quality of our patient care. AGH remains committed to providing our patients with a safe and high quality patient experience. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the council on future initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Keenan MD".

Robert Keenan, MD  
Chief Quality Officer,  
Allegheny General Hospital & Western Pennsylvania Hospital

cc: Dan Laurent, Director of Media Relations, Allegheny Health Network  
Pamela Zajdel, Manager, External Regulatory Reporting, WPAHS