

Choose well.

November 26, 2013

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street, Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Attention: Joe Martin, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Martin,

These comments are being submitted by Jefferson Regional Medical Center in response to the Hospital Performance Report released for calendar year 2012.

The Hospital was identified as having a mortality rate in Infectious Pneumonia that was statistically higher than expected.

This report reflects that the Hospital treated 504 patients with Infectious Pneumonia and that nineteen (19) of these patients died. These nineteen (19) cases were reviewed. Of these nineteen (19) patients, sixteen (16) had orders written, after discussion with the patient or their healthcare decision-maker, reflecting their decision to limit the treatment to be provided. Seven (7) patients requested to receive comfort measures only; another nine (9) did not want to be resuscitated. In addition to pneumonia, six (6) of these patients also suffered from lung cancer, two (2) had advanced liver disease and one (1) had multiple myeloma. One (1) patient's admission was less than 24 hours in length prior to their expiring while their plan of care was being developed.

Following the Hospital's established processes, the Performance Improvement Department reviewed these cases. This review revealed no areas of concerns.

Keeping in line with the Hospital's Mission and Vision, our hospital is here to provide superior care and service, working to improve the health of our region.

Sincerely,



Richard Collins, MD  
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer