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

November 25, 2013

Dear Mr. Martin,

Mount Nittany Medical Center has reviewed the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council's Hospital Performance Report for 2012. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

We at Mount Nittany Medical Center support and utilize comparative reports to identify opportunities for improvement. Continuous analysis of comparative data is included in our internal performance improvement process and through participation in such national quality reporting initiatives as those coordinated by The Joint Commission and The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The following comments are offered on the two conditions with mortality rates greater than expected. The majority of patients (93%) in the disease groups of congestive heart failure (CHF) and aspiration pneumonia had a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) status and/or comfort care upon admission. We believe that these deaths were anticipated given the severity of the patients' illnesses and the expressed wishes of the patients and family. All patient mortalities are reviewed on an individual bases to evaluate clinical care rendered, and due to severity of illness of these patients, we believe these deaths were anticipated.

Mount Nittany Medical Center is currently participating in multiple state and national quality collaborations and is continually utilizing evidence-based guidelines to facilitate improved clinical outcomes for our patients. We regularly evaluate clinical care based on evidence-based performance measures and use those to constantly improve our patient care and services.

Thank you for your commitment to transparency and accuracy in healthcare quality and for the opportunity to comment on this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Brown".

Steven E. Brown, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer