

GOOD
SAMARITAN
HEALTH SYSTEM
The Good Samaritan Hospital

May 1, 2007

Marc P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
225 Market Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

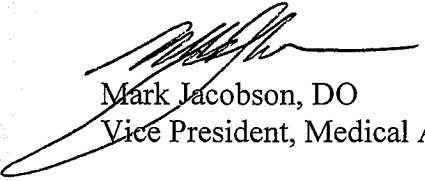
Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the results of the PHC4 2005 CABG/Valve Report. Results for our organization, The Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, show that there is a "higher than expected" 30-day readmission rate.

Upon review of the readmission cases that were included in this report, the following were observed:

- 2005 was the first year open-heart surgery was performed at The Good Samaritan Hospital. Therefore, a comparatively small sample size certainly influenced the overall percentage of readmissions,
- Because the open-heart program was so new, clinicians were very sensitive and more apt to readmit patients that would not have normally been readmitted had the program been more mature,
- None of the diagnoses or reasons for readmission were life-threatening, and all of the readmitted patients returned to the community or prior health care setting in very satisfactory condition, and,
- Most recent data from our institution show that readmission rates for post-CABG patients is well within national standards.

The Good Samaritan Hospital continuously strives to provide safe and high quality care to all of its patients. We again thank you for the opportunity to comment on the information afforded in this report.

Sincerely,



Mark Jacobson, DO
Vice President, Medical Affairs

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