



**JEANNETTE DISTRICT
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

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(724)527-3551

April 19, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Jeannette District Memorial Hospital is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the 1999 C-Section Deliveries in the Pennsylvania Report published by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.

As a Level I NICU, we are pleased that our statistics reflect our continued commitment to provide quality obstetrical care at a reasonable cost. The C-Section rates include the care of patients with high risk presentation as well as those seeking an alternative to VBAC. Our VBAC rate was, in fact, higher than reported. It was 41.7% compared to the rate of 22.4%. The discrepancy was due to an internal problem in that our medical records coders and data abstractors missed several cases due to physician documentation. In a small institution, statistically missing a few cases would significantly affect the percentage of VBACs.

This data focuses on rates of C-Sections and other maternal rates but does not take into account maternal or neonatal outcomes. Our services continue to be excellent as reflected in our positive outcomes and the fact that patients return to JDMH for the continuation of their care. Through an active Quality Improvement Program, the Hospital and Medical Staff continuously collaborate to evaluate and improve the care provided to our patients.

We support the efforts of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment to enhance service effectiveness.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph A. Capone, M.D.
VP/Medical Affairs

RAC/par

cc: Robert Bulger, President/CEO
Donna Hosmer, M.D., Medical Staff Quality Director
Karim Khalil, M.D., Chair, Dept. of OB/GYN/PEDS
Penny Rossi, Director, Quality Improvement & Case Management