



NASON HOSPITAL

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April 6, 2001

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

RE: 1999 C-section Deliveries in Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Volavka:

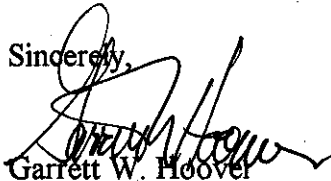
We have reviewed the 1999 C-section Deliveries Pennsylvania Report. The report indicates that Nason Hospital had a 23.3% C-section rate and a 26.3% VBAC rate, compared to statewide rates of 21.1% and 34.8%.

Obstetric deliveries and outcomes are a component of our ongoing quality management program. Quarterly, we evaluate our indications for C-sections and VBACs and correlate that information with delivery outcomes for both the mother and the baby. During 1999, our analysis found a 6% breech presentation rate in *all* of our deliveries. Of those in breech presentation, 87% resulted in a C-section and comprised 21% of our C-sections that year. In comparison to the PHC4 1999 report, our 6% breech presentation rate was higher than 3.5% statewide and our rate of breech presentations resulting in C-section was 87% compared to 88.1% statewide.

We would like to comment on the high risk conditions utilized in your analysis of the data. There are many reasons to perform a C-section. Other high risk conditions that we feel should be considered in evaluating C-section rates include, to name a few, fetal distress and maternal medical conditions such as gestational diabetes and cardiac disease.

We are proud of the fact that as a small hospital we have been able to maintain a low C-section rate and obtain good outcomes for our mothers and babies. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Hoover
President/CEO