



**ALLE-KISKI  
MEDICAL CENTER**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

1301 CARLISLE STREET, NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065

724-226-7000, FAX: 724-226-7490

**CINDY K. SCHAMP**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

October 24, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Alle-Kiski Medical Center (AKMC), would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for the invitation to review and comment on data obtained within the upcoming release of the 2005 Hospital-Acquired Infection Report.

I would like to bring to your attention an over-reporting error on surgical site infections for AKMC. The PHC4 2005 Surgical Site Infection Rate is listed at 10.6; the recalculated rate should be 3.7. Our over-reporting error was the result of a misinterpretation of the inclusion criteria for surgical site infections. The inclusion criteria state only infections occurring during the same stay as the procedure should be included. Unfortunately our error identifies AKMC as an outlier for surgical site infections.

AKMC has a very committed and active medical staff dedicated to the prevention of infectious disease. We are committed to providing our patients with the safest and highest quality of care available. Please contact me at 724-226-7263 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Schamp  
President and Chief Executive Officer