



BERWICK
HOSPITAL CENTER

701 E. 16th Street
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603

October 13, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

In review of the report of Hospital Acquired Infection Data for Calendar Year 2005, it was identified that Berwick Hospital Center reported all hospital-acquired pneumonia cases. This being done even though we were only required to report ventilator-associated pneumonia through the first three (3) quarters and all hospital acquired pneumonia for the fourth quarter. Our number of pneumonia cases reflects a total of all cases. Under the current guidelines provided by PHC4 we would have only been required to report three (3) cases for the year 2005, none of those being ventilator associated.

Therefore, our data being reported to the public is reporting the Berwick Hospital Center as above the peer and statewide group who may have only reported the ventilator-associated pneumonia cases.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond from the facility level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Makowski, R.H.I.A.".

Linda J. Makowski, R.H.I.A.
Director, Health Information Management

Cc: Stephen J. Grubbs, Chief Executive Officer
Jeff Bomboy, Quality Management and Regulatory Compliance Director