



The Health Network of

THE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL

701 E. Marshall Street • West Chester, PA 19380 • www.ccbosp.com

Richard M. Armstrong, Jr., Chairman

H. L. Perry Pepper, President

Mary Ellen Josephs, Secretary

Telephone: 610-431-5000

October 25, 2006

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

I am writing on behalf of the Chester County Hospital in response to the upcoming release of the Hospital-acquired Infection Report for 2005 Data. Our organization strongly supports the Council's efforts to provide valuable healthcare information to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

The Chester County Hospital has had a long-standing commitment to Infection Prevention and Control and to the safety of our patients. As a result, we have collaborated on many successful infection reduction initiatives with organizations like Quality Insights of Pennsylvania (community acquired pneumonia), Vermont Oxford (reducing neonatal bloodstream infections) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (100,000 Lives campaign to reduce central line related infections, surgical site infections and ventilator associated pneumonia). In a continuation of those efforts, we have recently embarked on a campaign to "Eliminate MRSA" by joining with VHA hospitals across the country to identify, and implement, effective strategies to reduce hospital acquired infections caused by methicillin resistant Staph aureus.

Our surveillance to identify hospital acquired infections has always been rigorous and comprehensive. The data provided by the Council in this report will serve as an additional tool in the ongoing review of all hospital acquired infections as we strive to recognize every opportunity to improve patient outcomes.

We appreciate your review of these comments and their inclusion in the published report. Do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Charleen Faucette, MT(HEW)
Director, Infection Prevention and Control