



1800 Mulberry Street
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510
570-969-8000

October 16, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

This letter is in response to the *Hospital-Acquired Infection Report CY 2005*. Community Medical Center has always been vigilant in identifying and recording nosocomially acquired infection in our institution. Reporting to external agencies is problematic because of divergent definitions and interpretation of definitions. Community Medical Center's reported numbers fill nationally recognized definitions, which may differ slightly from PHC4's definitions. This leads inevitably to divergent numbers.

Community Medical Center has been compliant in reporting nosocomial infections for our institution. Our facility is safe and a healthful environment for our patients. Our outcomes of care are continually being evaluated. When opportunities for improvement are identified, changes are made and programs implemented to make positive changes for our patients.

Community Medical Center supports the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in its intent to provide hospitals and patients with data on performance. We thank you for the opportunity to comment on our hospital's performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Richard Hartman'.

C. Richard Hartman, MD
President and CEO