



**Ephrata
Community
Hospital**

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October 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

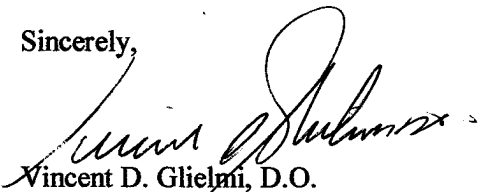
Ephrata Community Hospital continues to be supportive of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's effort to provide information on hospital quality. We feel that educating our consumers with this information helps them to make informed decisions about their care.

I need to share some important information regarding the data presented in the Hospital Acquired Infection Report for 2005. After reviewing the preliminary report, I learned that Ephrata Community Hospital submitted more data than was required in the category of "surgical infections." While PHC4 requires that we report all surgical site infections during a patient's stay, Ephrata Community Hospital exceeded your data requirements and actually reported data that extended to 30 days beyond hospital discharge. As noted by The Center for Disease Control and Prevention the majority of surgical site infections occur 21 days after a surgical procedure. Recalculating Ephrata Community Hospital's data from patient admission to patient discharge our surgical infections should be adjusted to 5 versus the 18 cases noted in the report. Additionally, Ephrata Community Hospital is participating with Medicare's CMS's Quality Insights 8th Scope of Work on Surgical Care Improvement Project.

In regards to urinary tract infections, our figures show a rate slightly higher than our peer group but near the state level. Here at Ephrata Community Hospital, we continue to taken steps to reduce hospital-acquired urinary tract infections by observing the insertion of Foley catheters and educating staff on procedural techniques. As a result, in just a few months time, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of hospital-acquired urinary tract infections.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide further clarification on the information provided in this report. Ephrata Community Hospital remains committed to providing each patient with a safe, quality experience while under our care.

Sincerely,



Vincent D. Glielmi, D.O.
Vice President for Medical Affairs