



October 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Latrobe Hospital, part of Excelsa Health would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) for the invitation to review and comment on the data contained with the upcoming release of the Hospital-acquired Infection Report for 2005. Because the release of this first hospital-specific report represents an important first step for the hospital community and consumers in analyzing this information, several key points about the data need to be explained.

- ✓ Reporting of health-care acquired infections by hospital was still being phased in for calendar year 2005. Hospitals began to report all health-care acquired infections in January 2006. Therefore, although it may appear in the data that a better effort was made to report more infections in the 3rd and 4th quarters, this only reflects the inclusion of additional types of infections per PHC4 requirements.
- ✓ Care must be taken in the analysis of the data. For example, the data in 2005 provides a small snapshot into a patient's hospital stay and does not consider all risk factors related to each patient's disease process.
- ✓ Latrobe Hospital has implemented several evidence-based infection reduction activities which have had an impact on the incidence of health-care acquired infections within our patient population. Some of those activities include but are not limited to the:
 - Prevention of Central-line associated bloodstream (CLAB) infections
 - Prevention of the transmission of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in the Acute Care setting.
 - Prevention of Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP)
- ✓ Latrobe Hospital received a generous grant from the Highmark Foundation and PHC4 to implement the MedMined Data Mining Surveillance System in order to participate in the Reducing Health-care acquired infections through electronic surveillance project in the state of Pennsylvania.

Latrobe Hospital is proud to participate in this health-care infection reduction project along with PHC4. MedMined will enable our Infection Prevention and Control Team to focus on targeted process improvements and prevention initiatives as it relates to health-care acquired infections.

Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems recognize the value of public release of meaningful data; as such data can be useful for consumers and purchasers in evaluating the quality of care, and for hospitals and clinicians in improving the quality of care.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and know that Latrobe Hospital, part of Excelsa Health is committed to the prevention of health-care acquired infections in order to provide excellent care to our patients.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ralph A. Capone
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Chief Quality Officer



October 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Frick Hospital, part of Excelsa Health would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) for the invitation to review and comment on the data contained with the upcoming release of the Hospital-acquired Infection Report for 2005. Because the release of this first hospital-specific report represents an important first step for the hospital community and consumers in analyzing this information, several key points about the data need to be explained.

- ✓ Reporting of health-care acquired infections by hospital was still being phased in for calendar year 2005. Hospitals began to report all health-care acquired infections in January 2006. Therefore, although it may appear in the data that a better effort was made to report more infections in the 3rd and 4th quarters, this only reflects the inclusion of additional types of infections per PHC4 requirements.
- ✓ Care must be taken in the analysis of the data. For example, the data in 2005 provides a small snapshot into a patient's hospital stay and does not consider all risk factors related to each patient's disease process.
- ✓ Frick Hospital has implemented several evidence-based infection reduction activities which have had an impact on the incidence of health-care acquired infections within our patient population. Some of those activities include but are not limited to the:
 - Prevention of Central-line associated bloodstream (CLAB) infections
 - Prevention of the transmission of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in the Acute Care setting.
 - Prevention of Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP)
- ✓ Frick Hospital received a generous grant from the Highmark Foundation and PHC4 to implement the MedMined Data Mining Surveillance System in order to participate in the Reducing Health-care acquired infections through electronic surveillance project in the state of Pennsylvania.

Frick Hospital is proud to participate in this health-care infection reduction project along with PHC4. MedMined will enable our Infection Prevention and Control Team to focus on targeted process improvements and prevention initiatives as it relates to health-care acquired infections.

Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems recognize the value of public release of meaningful data; as such data can be useful for consumers and purchasers in evaluating the quality of care, and for hospitals and clinicians in improving the quality of care.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and know that Frick Hospital, part of Exela Health is committed to the prevention of health-care acquired infections in order to provide excellent care to our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Capone".

Dr. Ralph A. Capone
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Chief Quality Officer



October 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Westmoreland Hospital, part of Excelsa Health would like to thank the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) for the invitation to review and comment on the data contained with the upcoming release of the Hospital-acquired Infection Report for 2005. Because the release of this first hospital-specific report represents an important first step for the hospital community and consumers in analyzing this information, several key points about the data need to be explained.

- ✓ Reporting of health-care acquired infections by hospital was still being phased in for calendar year 2005. Hospitals began to report all health-care acquired infections in January 2006. Therefore, although it may appear in the data that a better effort was made to report more infections in the 3rd and 4th quarters, this only reflects the inclusion of additional types of infections per PHC4 requirements.
- ✓ Care must be taken in the analysis of the data. For example, the data in 2005 provides a small snapshot into a patient's hospital stay and does not consider all risk factors related to each patient's disease process.
- ✓ Westmoreland Hospital has implemented several evidence-based infection reduction activities which have had an impact on the incidence of health-care acquired infections within our patient population. Some of those activities include but are not limited to the:
 - Prevention of Central-line associated bloodstream (CLAB) infections
 - Prevention of the transmission of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in the Acute Care setting
 - Prevention of Ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP)
- ✓ Westmoreland Hospital received a generous grant from the Highmark Foundation and PHC4 to implement the MedMined Data Mining Surveillance System in order to participate in the Reducing Health-care acquired infections through electronic surveillance project in the state of Pennsylvania.

Westmoreland Hospital is proud to participate in this health-care infection reduction project along with PHC4. MedMined will enable our Infection Prevention and Control Team to focus on targeted process improvements and prevention initiatives as it relates to health-care acquired infections.

Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems recognize the value of public release of meaningful data; as such data can be useful for consumers and purchasers in evaluating the quality of care, and for hospitals and clinicians in improving the quality of care.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and know that Westmoreland Hospital, part of Excelsa Health is committed to the prevention of health-care acquired infections in order to provide excellent care to our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Capone". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Ralph A. Capone
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Chief Quality Officer