



October 27, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Holy Spirit Hospital appreciates the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's efforts to draw attention to hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). Everyone in healthcare understands the impact HAIs have on patients. Hospitals continue to define processes that will decrease the number of these infections. Holy Spirit Hospital strives to decrease the number of hospital-acquired infections with zero infections as its goal.

Holy Spirit Hospital works collaboratively with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Cost Containment Council on a project designed to reduce the incidence of central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABs) while focusing on the financial impact of these types of infections. Holy Spirit Hospital is also actively involved in the Capital Region Healthcare Collaborative working closely with Pinnacle Health System and Penn State Hershey Medical Center to reduce CLABs.

Holy Spirit Hospital utilizes 100% surveillance of positive cultures to ensure optimal capturing and reporting of HAIs. By these efforts we have identified an area for improvement, that being catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Through increased awareness and infection control education Holy Spirit Hospital reduced the number of catheter-associated urinary tract infections by 62% from the first six months of 2005 to the first six months of 2006. Efforts continue to reduce this infection rate lower. Up-to-date infection data for Holy Spirit is available on the hospital's web site (www.hsh.org) under the Quality portal and clicking on "Facts about Care".

Our infection control personnel are committed to active surveillance, tracking results to pinpoint areas for improvement and spearheading educational efforts to decrease HAIs. Holy Spirit Hospital follows many evidence-protocols of care. We will use the Cost Containment Council's data as well as those from the Centers for Disease and Prevention and other recognized authorities to guide us in these efforts.

Questions about quality of care can be offered via the above Holy Spirit Hospital web site by clicking on quality@hsh.org.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Torchia, MD
Chief Medical Officer

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A Service of Holy Spirit Health System
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