



October 24, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

Understanding that Pennsylvania is the first state in the nation to collect data on hospital-acquired infections, Lancaster Regional Medical Center acknowledges the value of public release of meaningful data. 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.

The PHC4 determines the percent of hospital-acquired infections (HAI) based on the number of discharges for the hospital, and does not look at outcomes based evidence to note improvement in processes to reduce infections. Lancaster Regional Medical Center supports the use of evidence based outcomes as a true indicator of a healthcare facility's effort to reduce hospital acquired infections. Numbers alone do not indicate the quality of care, but does help to direct process-improvement initiatives.

Lancaster Regional Medical Center is a participant in the IHI 100,000 Lives campaign that is targeted at using sets of interventions to help reduce hospital-acquired infections. One initiative that directly impacts the reduction of hospital acquired infections is the use of a set of interventions called Ventilator Bundles to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonias. The acquisition of ventilator associated pneumonia during a patient's hospital stay is reflected by an increase length of stay, increase to antibiotic exposures and increase in negative outcomes for patients. The introduction in October 2005 of Ventilator Bundles at


Page 2
October 24, 2006

Lancaster Regional Medical Center has helped reduce VAP and has demonstrated a significant decrease in the hospital's rate of VAP which is one of the HAI reported in the PHC4 data.

The Hospital also publicly reports on several core measures through Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMA) and the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). These core measures are based on evidence based practices that when implemented help reduce hospital-associated infections. Lancaster Regional Medical Centers has consistently demonstrated above average outcomes with the core measures related to pneumonia and surgical site infections. This information is accessible to the public through the CMS website.

While Lancaster Regional Medical Center supports PHC4's attempt to bring each hospital's infection rates to the public's attention, the Hospital feels that the consumer needs to be aware of the evidence-based practices that we participate in which gives a better indication for the public of the quality care delivered to our patients.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley K. Nurkin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Bradley Nurkin
Chief Executive Officer