



Moses Taylor Hospital

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October 27, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Regarding the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council's (PHC4) recently published *Hospital-acquired Infection Report for 2005 Data*, Moses Taylor Hospital realizes the importance of reducing the occurrence of hospital-acquired infections. Moses Taylor Hospital's higher surgical site infection rate may be related to changes in the reporting criteria throughout the year.

Moses Taylor Hospital fully complies with the PHC4 reporting requirements and has been in compliance since the program began in 2004, although hospitals were not required to fully report all hospital-acquired infections until January 1, 2006. We believe that the data we report accurately reflects infections diagnosed in hospitalized patients. We firmly believe that underlying medical conditions impact the length of a patient's hospitalization as well as a patient's vulnerability to infections and we have various programs in place to improve care and decrease the risk of healthcare-acquired infections, i.e., Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP), the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), and clinical pathways, etc.

Through other surveillance efforts, Moses Taylor Hospital has consistently scored lower than peer group and statewide data, including benchmarks in the National Nosocomial Infection Study (NNIS), which was established in 1970 and is a long-standing, national data base of hospital infections updated on a regular basis. NNIS data are collected using standardized protocols (surveillance components). All infections are categorized into major and specific infection sites using standard Centers for Disease Control (CDC) definitions that include both laboratory and clinical criteria.

Moses Taylor Hospital maintains an active Infection Control Committee headed by one physician specializing in infectious disease and two infection control practitioners. The infection control practitioners monitor and review diagnosed infections, test environmental cultures, and investigate outbreaks in the hospital. Moses Taylor Hospital also continually provides employees with education in regard to infection control, proper hand washing techniques, etc. The Hospital will hold it's 2nd Annual Infection Control Fair on October 31st for all employees to further promote awareness of hospital-acquired infections and the need to reduce or eliminate them.

Moses Taylor Hospital continually strives to provide quality care to our patients. As part of this endeavor, we welcome the PHC4 data provided as another tool in our effort to continually improve the quality of care we deliver.

Sincerely,

Carmen A. Brutico, Jr., MD
Chief Medical Officer
Moses Taylor Hospital