



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:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the CY 2005 Hospital-Acquired Infections in Pennsylvania Report for Phoenixville Hospital. After review of the report, I would like to provide this additional information.

Phoenixville Hospital's Infection Control Program is a coordinated process with the goal of reducing the risk of the acquisition of hospital-acquired infections through a collaborative effort.

The Infection Control Program is reviewed both on an annual basis and whenever changes occur in: the risk of infectious transmission, current scientific knowledge, or regulatory recommendations and guidelines. The annual Infection Control Risk Assessment identifies priorities for the upcoming year, which then leads to the development of the Infection Control Plan. This Plan facilitates a multidisciplinary approach to the prevention and control of hospital-acquired infections. Sound epidemiologic principles and current scientific knowledge identified in national infection control standards and guidelines (e.g. the CDC, OSHA, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and National Quality Forum Initiatives) are utilized to establish mechanisms to provide quality patient care and prevent hospital-acquired infections.

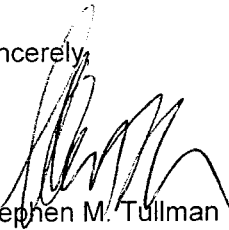
In addition to incorporating the standards established through the stated organizations, Phoenixville Hospital's prevention initiatives include but are not limited to: monitoring & evaluation of key performance aspects of the Infection Control surveillance plan, compliance monitoring of Infection Control protocols with corresponding follow-up, an active hand hygiene campaign, a task force for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia, and the promotion of our employees' health through an immunization program that strongly encourages the influenza vaccine for all healthcare workers.

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The hospital-acquired infections reported by Phoenixville Hospital have been reviewed internally. This review includes the analysis of risk factors such as age, comorbid conditions (i.e. diabetes, heart disease, immunosuppressive medications or treatments, existing infections) that may impact the patient's risk of developing a hospital-acquired infection. The PHC4 Report does not provide the public with the aforementioned variables and their role in the development of hospital-acquired infections. Also, while it is evident that there are differences in rates among healthcare facilities, peer groups, and statewide summary data, there is no evidence of an analysis to determine if these differences are statistically significant.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the 2005 Report on Hospital-Acquired Infections. Phoenixville Hospital will continue to review its Infection Control Program to assure the provision of quality care at Phoenixville Hospital through the prevention of hospital-acquired infections.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Tullman
Chief Executive Officer

STM/slc