



Pottstown Memorial Medical Center

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October 25, 2006

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

RE: Submission of formal comments related to the PHC4 Hospital Acquired Infection Report for 2005 Data

Dear Mr. Volavka:

At Pottstown Memorial Medical Center we continuously strive toward elimination of all hospital acquired infections. We follow all of the infection prevention guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Epidemiology (CDC). In addition we have implemented national infection prevention recommendations proposed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). Presently we are an active participant with the Delaware Health Care Council initiative which is investigating "best practices" in the prevention of hospital acquired infections. We continuously monitor the daily progress of each of our patients throughout their hospitalization and take numerous precautions to prevent infections. Our full time infection control practitioner, who is certified by the Association of Practitioners in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), provides over 50 infection prevention educational programs each year to our hospital and medical staff.

We are pleased that our overall infection rate per 1000 cases is significantly below the state and peer hospital levels as reported in the PHC4 report, Hospital-acquired Infections in Pennsylvania – Calendar Year 2005. In almost every category PPMC stands below the state and peer hospital levels.

The mortality rate at PPMC, as reported by PHC4, appears higher than the state and hospital peer group mortality rates, particularly as it relates to urinary tract infections. There were 14 patients with urinary tract infections in 2005. Three of these 14 patients eventually expired. We conducted an extensive review of the medical records of these three patients and found that in each case, the patients were extremely ill with complex medical conditions upon admission to PPMC. We concluded that the cause of death in each case was not attributable to the urinary tract infection. Rather, the cause of death

was attributable to the patients' complex underlying medical conditions and the severe, eventually life threatening problems which can arise from these conditions.

At PMMC we will continue our aggressive efforts to eliminate hospital acquired infections. PMMC will continue to collaborate with the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council in our efforts to eliminate infections. Our primary goal is to provide safe, consistent, compassionate care to all of our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S MacLauchlan", written in a cursive style.

Steve MacLauchlan
Chief Executive Officer