



October 23, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Volavka,

I would like to respond regarding the information for Riddle Memorial Hospital (PAF 1520) being published in the 2005 Hospital Acquired Infection report for Pennsylvania. In this report, Riddle Memorial Hospital had a lower hospital acquired infection rate than the statewide or peer group rates in all areas except for Bloodstream Infections.

Riddle Memorial Hospital did recognize that the number of bloodstream infections was increasing. In investigating this, it was realized that this increase was related to Central Line Catheters. As a result, we volunteered in January 2006 to participate in the Partnership for Patient Care collaborative to reduce central line related Bloodstream Infections. We have been working diligently on this collaborative and have instituted many procedural improvements.

The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council provides a valuable service in providing this information to the public and by allowing the opportunity for organizations involved to respond to any concerns that may be raised. Thank you for this opportunity to address this information.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Christie  
Director, Quality/Risk Management