



Sacred Heart Hospital

Affiliated with Sacred Heart HealthCare System

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October 24, 2006

Mark P. Volavka
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Council
225 Market St. Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Volavka:

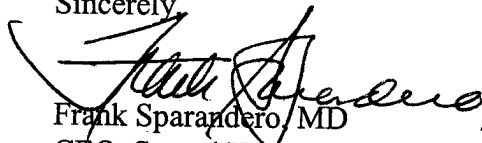
Thank you for this opportunity to participate and comment on the 2005 Hospital-acquired Infection Report.

Sacred Heart remains below the peer group and statewide data for infections per 1000 cases.

In the breakdown of hospital data the pneumonia category identifies two mortalities out of six patients for a 33.3% mortality rate. Due to the low volume of cases the mortality rate is not statistically significant and may be in fact misleading. In reviewing these mortalities it should be noted that there were co morbid conditions existing in these patients and that pneumonia alone was not the cause of their demise. These included patients with diagnosis of intracranial hemorrhage and short bowel syndrome. Both of these patients had prolonged hospital stays with multiple interventions in an effort to prolong their lives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and provide this additional information to be included in your latest report.

Sincerely,


Frank Sparandero, MD
CEO Sacred Heart Hospital