

SHARON REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

October 25, 2006



*Advanced Care
Close to Home*

Advanced Wound Recovery Center
Behavioral Health Services
Brain Attack/Stroke Center
Breast Care Center
Cancer Care Center
Chest Pain Emergency Center
Comprehensive Pain Management Center
Corporate Health Services
Diabetes Center
Ear, Nose, Throat & Hearing Center
Emergency Care Center
Express Care
Family Medicine Centers
HealthPLACE
Heart Institute
Home Health Agency
Hospice/Palliative Care
Hospital
Rehabilitation Services
School of Nursing
School of Radiography
Sports Medicine Services
Surgical Services
Transitional Care Unit
Women's Center

Facility Locations
Sharon
Hermitage
Mercer
Greenville
Brookfield, OH

Main Campus
740 East State Street
Sharon, PA 16146-3395
724-983-3911
www.sharonregional.com

John A. Zidanssek
President & CEO

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 Health Care Cost Containment Council's *Hospital-acquired Infection Report* for calendar year 2005. The Health System has aggressively addressed HAIs over the past few years.

Sharon Regional's Surgical Site hospital-acquired infections are far below the state and peer comparison group.

Bloodstream infections in patients with central lines are dramatically low, only one case the entire year. The Health System established a multi-disciplinary performance improvement team in 2003, identified areas for improvement, and put changes into effect. The result was a 94.4% reduction in bloodstream HAIs from central lines from 2003 to 2004.

Sharon Regional is also below the state and peer group in HAI pneumonia, including VAP, ventilator-acquired pneumonia. The Health System has participated in the ventilator-care bundle initiative.

The area in which the Health System is currently striving to improve is in urinary tract infections caused by Foley catheters. These have been a focus for our infection control practitioners over the past year. They did an intensive education program. Now, in 2006, we are awaiting the results of using the silver-coated catheters and expect to see a significant decrease in these hospital-acquired infections.

In conclusion, Sharon Regional Health System appreciates the opportunity to comment on these cases. Infection prevention has been and will continue to be a priority for us.

Sincerely,

John A. Zidanssek
President & CEO

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