



THE WESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL  
FORBES REGIONAL CAMPUS

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

2570 HAYMAKER ROAD, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

412-858-2000

October 26, 2006

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

Mr. Volavka:

I am responding of behalf of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital Forbes Regional Campus to the upcoming hospital specific hospital-acquired infection report for calendar year 2005.

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Forbes Regional Campus, as with all Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems, recognize the value of public release of meaningful data, as such data can be useful for consumers and purchasers in evaluating the quality of care, and for hospitals and clinicians in improving the quality of care.

As the first state in the nation to begin collecting hospital-acquired infections, there are no clinically validated benchmarks yet by which one can truly evaluate hospital-specific data. The release of this first hospital-specific report represents an important first step for the hospital community in analyzing hospital-acquired infections.

Our facility is being compared to state wide data and Peer Group 3( includes hospitals that treat a larger number of patients than Peer Group 4. They treat an average of 7,600 patients a year. On average, 22 percent of these patients undergo surgical procedures). The reporting requirements changed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year so comparable data was not reported throughout the year.

A concentrated effort has been made at this facility to accurately report all required data to PHC4. An additional employee was added to the Infection Prevention and Control department to assist with the extra data collection and analysis to ensure the highest quality product. This additional surveillance revealed further opportunities for improvement in the facility and allowed the facility to direct attention to these issues. Data from 2006 will undoubtedly make our rates appear higher in comparison to 2005 as we began reporting ALL hospital acquired infections to PHC4 beginning January 2006.

We rated lower in Central Line Associated Bacteremias (CLAB) than State averages or our Peer Group. In other areas, we are comparable however, our ultimate goal is zero infections in any area. The average costs of care at Forbes Regional Campus remains lower than State or Peer group.

Forbes Regional Campus has had an active Infection Prevention and Control program in place for many years. We are a member of the IHI initiative and have introduced IHI bundles for Central Line Associated Bacteremias (CLAB), and Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP). We participate in the CMS SCIP project to reduce incidence of Surgical Site Infection. Through these efforts, we are currently experiencing a significant reduction in all 3 of these serious infectious complications of health care.


As Pennsylvania and other states that are collecting hospital-acquired infection data work with researchers and others, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the federal Agency on Health Care Research and Quality, additional analyses will help:

- Refine information that enables comparison of the risk of infection for comparable groups of patients.
- Evaluate the additional costs and patient days that are actually attributable to the infection, rather than the underlying disease conditions that led to the hospitalization.
- Enable understanding of occurrences by diagnoses and procedures.
- Provide trend information over time to enable evaluation of interventions and best practices to prevent and control infections.

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Forbes Regional Campus sets a high standard for Infection Prevention and Control and shall continue to provide quality service to our customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Moser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas B. Moser  
Chief Operating Officer