



**ALLE-KISKI  
MEDICAL CENTER**

WEST PENN ALLEGHENY HEALTH SYSTEM

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**CINDY K. SCHAMP**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

February 19, 2008

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 review and comment on the data included in the 2006 Hospital-Acquired Infection report scheduled to be released by PHC4.

We have recognized some variation in our processes of validating and reporting hospital-acquired infections. To ensure the reliability of our data, we have recalculated the cases and have identified some errors in data that was reported to PHC4 for calendar year 2006. The net results indicate our infection rate is actually 21.0 per 1,000 cases instead of 24.9 per 1,000 cases.

Although there will still be some impact to our data reported in the first three quarters of 2007, our corrected internal processes for the fourth quarter of 2007 reveal an 18.0 per 1,000 cases rate of hospital-acquired infections.

Alle-Kiski Medical Center remains committed to preventing hospital-acquired infections in order to provide the safest and highest quality of care to our patients and community. We have dedicated additional resources to our infection control program and continue to identify and adopt best practices towards attaining this goal.

Please contact Michael Harlovic, Vice President of Patient Care Services, with any questions you may have at 724-226-7263.

Sincerely,

Cindy K. Schamp  
President and Chief Executive Officer

CKS/dde

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