



Hazleton General Hospital

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February 12, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Volavka:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this year's Hospital-acquired Infection Report.

We are very pleased with the results of the data presented to us by the Health Care Cost Containment Council. We have been very aggressive in both our reporting of hospital acquired infections and our process-improvement efforts to prevent these infections.

As you can see from this year's report, the number of cases at Hazleton General Hospital that qualified for inclusion increased by nearly 10%, yet our overall number of infections increased by only 5.5%. Our infection rates decreased in all but two categories (surgical site infections and multiple infections). In both of these categories, our rates are below both our peer group rate and the statewide rate.

We have had an aggressive project in our Rehabilitation unit to reduce the number of device-related urinary tract infections through early recognition of urinary tract infections on admission and removal of Foley catheters within 24 hours of admission when feasible. This process is now being rolled out hospital-wide.

We at Hazleton General Hospital are committed to providing quality, cost effective health care to our customers. We look forward to working with you in the future to achieve this goal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Vilushis".

Barbara A. Vilushis, DO  
Associate Medical Director, GHHA

Our *heart* is in healthcare.